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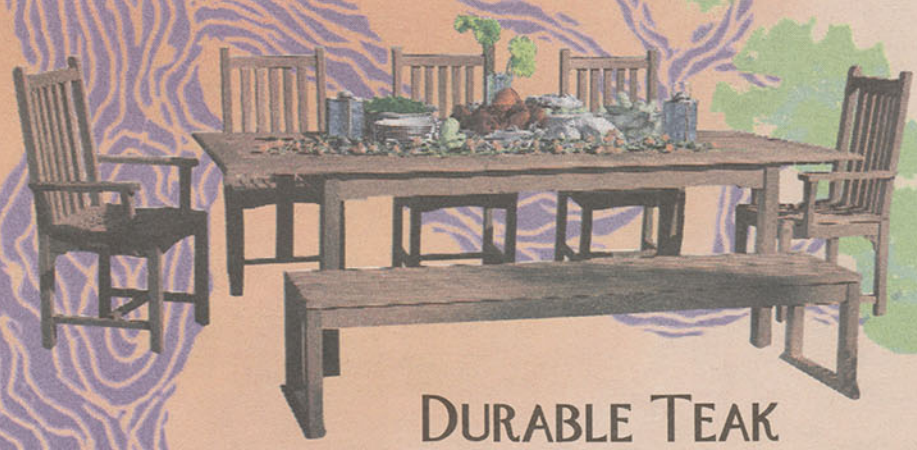

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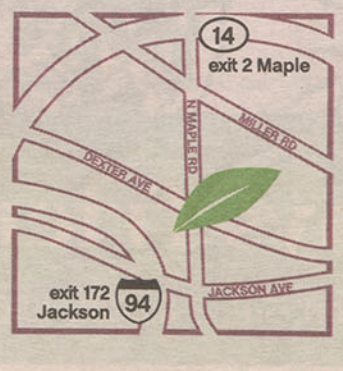

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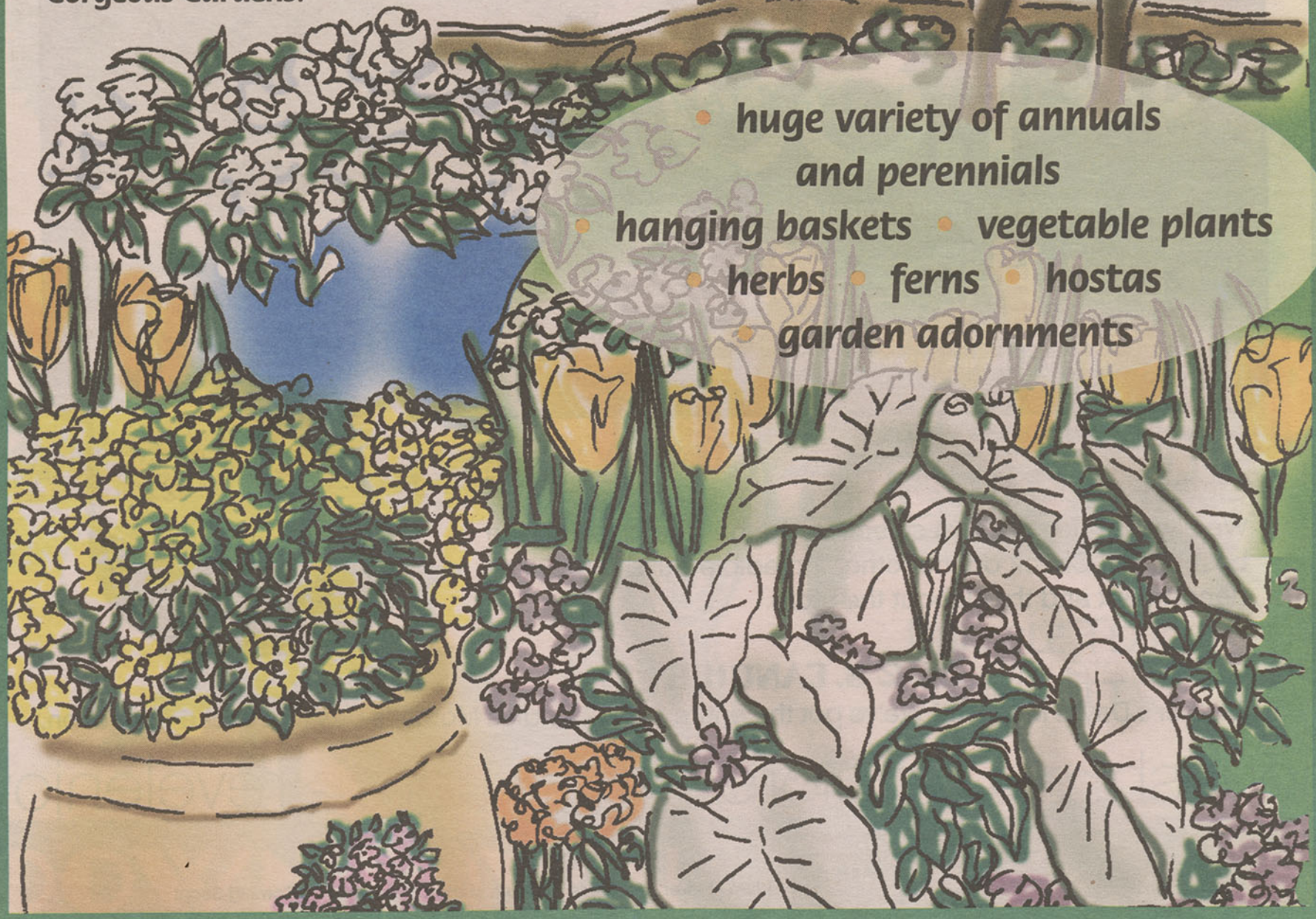

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Ann Arbor Observer

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May Is Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Early Detection Can Save Your Life

A free skin cancer screening will take place on Saturday, May 17th at the Boyd Gillard Institute of Aesthetic and Dermatologic Surgery. The screening will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The address is 4990 West Clark Road in Ypsilanti.

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Ann Arbor Public Schools
For Kids' Sake:

Vote Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Operating and Sinking Fund Millage Restorations

In 1994 Michigan voters ratified Proposal A calling for a new, more equitable means of school funding. These Operating Millages are renewable every 10 years, and account for 45% of the AAPS annual operating budget.

On Tuesday, May 6 Ann Arbor voters will be asked to renew the 18 mill Non-Homestead and 12.4675 mill Hold Harmless (Homestead) millages as well as the 1 mill Sinking Fund, a limited pay-as-you-go fund designated exclusively for building remodeling, repair and improvement projects.

Did you know the average age of Ann Arbor Public School buildings is 50 years old?

1 Mill Sinking Fund Millage Restoration

Restores the 1 mill Sinking Fund over 5 years, the same authorization approved by voters in 2002 and 2004.

Thanks to your support, the 2004 Sinking Fund provided:

- Mechanical and electrical upgrades in all 21 AAPS elementary schools, 5 middle schools and 5 high schools.
- New school boilers and classroom ventilators.
- New rooftop air handling systems.
- New plumbing fixtures.
- Air conditioning for elementary school media centers and computer labs.

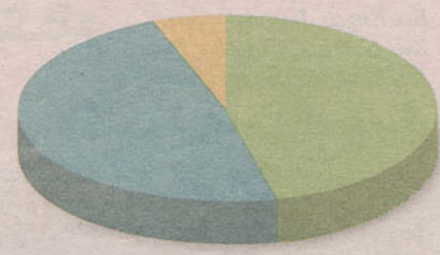
With your continued support, the 2008 Sinking Fund will underwrite:

- School roof and parking lot repairs.
- New ceilings and lighting.
- New flooring and electrical system upgrades.
- Improved building security and access.

Before you cast your ballot, please consider...

- Continuation of 18 mills levied primarily on business, industrial and second home properties in the school district, in place since 1994/1995 (Proposal A.)
- Restores the limit on operating taxes to 18 mills, of which all 18 may be levied on most non-homestead property (business, industrial, commercial property, rental and second homes) and not more than 12.4675 mills may be levied on principal residences. In 07.08 the district levied 4.7232 mills on primary residents.
- All Ann Arbor registered voters are eligible to vote on the proposal.
- This proposal currently supplies 45% of Ann Arbor Public Schools' State operating funds.
- This proposal is required for Ann Arbor Public Schools to receive its full allocation of operating funds from the Michigan legislature.
- The funding goes directly to operate Ann Arbor Public Schools.

Ann Arbor Public Schools District Funding Sources



12% Other Funding Sources — $22.3 Million
45% Operating Funds — $81.4 Million
43% State Funding from Lansing — $78.3 Million

Exceptional schools are a reflection of exceptional communities. Thanks to your continued support, Ann Arbor schools are – and will continue to be – *exceptional.*

Absentee ballots must be obtained: Sat., May 3, 2 p.m.

Absentee ballots must be returned: Tue., May 6, 8 p.m.

Election Day: Tues. May 6 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

For polling locations visit: ewashtenaw.org

Ann Arbor Public Schools • www.a2schools.org • 734.994.2200

Warhol's blessing: "I was jumping up and down after we got the call," says Ann Arbor Film Festival executive director Christen McArdle. "Everyone was yelling and giving high-fives," says Donald Harrison, director of community and development. They were reacting to the news that the festival had received a two-year, $80,000 grant ($40,000 per year) from the New York–based Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. It was a terrific capper to the record-smashing attendance at the festival in March—and to a successful $75,000 fund-raising drive that wiped out the organization's deficit.

The Warhol Foundation actually approached the festival after learning of its well-publicized tussle with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs last year, after a state legislator accused it of violating state obscenity guidelines. "They came to us and said, 'You guys have a lot of credibility. Why don't you put a [grant] proposal together?' " McArdle says. "We were just, like, 'Wow!' " What's more, the state has since adopted new content guidelines; though they're still restrictive, they've allowed the festival to declare victory and pursue state funding again. "Film festivals cost a lot of money to put on and always will," says McArdle. "But we're very much out of a crisis situation, and that's great."

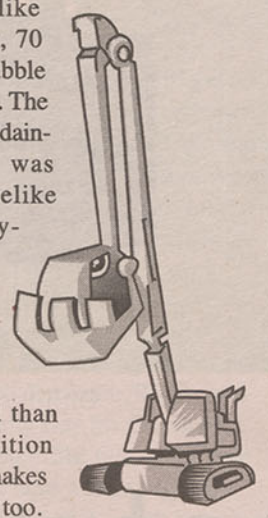
Szechuan to Turkey: While the city council and local restaurateurs were haggling over a rare "quota" liquor license this spring, Ayse's Turkish Cafe on Plymouth quietly went out and bought one. The transfer from Sze-Chuan West on Stadium was approved by city council in mid-March.

Owner Ayse Uras says that she's wanted to serve alcohol since she opened fifteen years ago. Although the cafe has flourished, she says lack of a license has cost her some business, particularly in catering. But buying one wasn't cheap: the one quota license available this year had a basic cost of just $600, which explains why ten local eateries applied for it—and also why city council ended up grabbing it for its own Leslie Park Golf Course. The cost of secondhand licenses, on the other hand, is determined by market forces. Ayse's cost $75,000, plus legal and other fees. Even so, Uras estimates that she'll earn back the investment within three years.

Hogs and dogs: On May 18, several hundred motorcyclists will roar out of American Harley Davidson on Jackson Road, trace a sixty-mile back-road route via Manchester, and finish their ride on a runway at Willow Run airport. Called "Dog Day Afternoon," the fund-raiser is the brainchild of Leslie Forys, a member of the local Harley Owners Group (HOG) and a cofounder of Michigan Retired Greyhounds as Pets (REGAP). "Over ten thousand greyhounds are killed each year," Forys says, because they are injured or otherwise unable to race. "They are young, healthy dogs being put to death," she says. "It's a very sad situation." Riders will contribute $20–$25 apiece, and others can pay $10 at Willow Run to watch demonstrations by greyhounds, helper dogs, and police K-9 dogs. The funds raised will help cover medical expenses for greyhounds found abandoned—and sometimes sick or injured—in parks and homes. While there are no known dog racing tracks in Michigan, Forys thinks there's an underground operation in the Holly-Fenton area. The greyhound she adopted from the Humane Society was found there—tied to a tree.

Really big show: Five years ago, Ben Johnson of the University Musical Society thought it would be cool to teach local teens how to stage a major performance—and "Breakin' Curfew" was born. The nine-month collaboration between UMS and the Neutral Zone culminates May 3 at the Power Center in a performance top heavy with teen talent—on stage and off. UMS professionals are on hand to help, but the show is created by "student curators" who handle everything from fund-raising and marketing to managing the performers, who this year include slam poets, modern dancers, and musicians in genres ranging from classical Chinese music to experimental jazz. "It's not like they're telling us what to do," says Pioneer senior Bennett Stein, who has worked on the show since his freshman year. "We have to figure it out." Johnson agrees: "If they are successful, they get to know what success feels like. If they are unsuccessful . . . they will learn through the process how to do it better next year." The kids must be doing something right: the past two years, the show has sold out all 1,300 seats.

Recycling St. Joe's: First, the old patient tower at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital was pulled down with Pac-Man-like precision. Now, 70 percent of the rubble is being recycled. The orderly—almost dainty—teardown was done by a cranelike high-reach hydraulic machine with an articulating claw. "The nibbler" is cleaner and more controlled than ordinary demolition methods—and makes recycling easier, too. "It can grab the structural steel, shake loose masonry and other material attached to the structural steel, and neatly set it down into piles," explains Tom Tocco, the health system's director of facilities and engineering. All the structural and galvanized steel, copper pipes, concrete, and brick will be sold for reuse—and the global commodities boom makes this a great time to sell. "The market right now for soft metals is very strong," Tocco says. Industries are "practically begging for recycled product because new product is so expensive." He figures that recycling the old patient tower will save about $125,000—25 percent of what it cost to demolish it.



Survivor moms: Pregnancy is supposed to be a rosy time—but it can be just the opposite for survivors of sexual abuse. That's the message of *Survivor Moms: Women's Stories of Birthing, Mothering, and Healing after Sexual Abuse,* by local midwives Mickey Sperlich and Julia Seng. The book, which grew out of a research project at the U-M's Institute for Research on Women and Gender, argues that abuse can cause a form of post-traumatic stress disorder—and that because pregnancy and birth are so intimate and sensual, survivors not only can feel emotionally vulnerable during that time, but may actually reexperience the trauma. The book includes the stories of eighty-one women who went through pregnancies after being sexually abused—including one who reported, "As my body grew and changed, prodded by relentless hormonal surges, I felt like I was being attacked over and over again." *Midwifery Today* magazine is sponsoring a conference in town on the issue May 7–10, open to both victims and the professionals who work with them.

Meet me at meetup: In coffee shops, restaurants, and private homes throughout Ann Arbor, groups of strangers with mutual interests bond in meetings arranged on the Internet. Scrabble lovers, raw food enthusiasts, Japanese speakers—they're all members of the worldwide Meetup.com. Nearly 3,000 locals belong to forty-some groups, which range in size from the 328-member Ann Arbor Stitch 'N Bitch Knit and Crochet Group to the six-member group Questioning Religion.

Harry Pianko organized the Ann Arbor Vegan Meetup Group to connect with fellow vegans, who abstain from both meat and dairy-based products. The 183-member group meets at least monthly in vegan-friendly restaurants—the Earthen Jar is a favorite. Julia Kessler-Hollar convened the Ann Arbor French Conversation Group to maintain her fluency after she returned from Paris. It now has 142 members, though usually only five or ten show up for chat sessions at Sweetwaters or Cafe Felix (they also sometimes take in French films, and even held a quiche eating contest). Most meetups either are free or charge a nominal fee, and anyone with an idea and web connection can start one. One local group is devoted to New Age thinker Ken Wilber, whose website shows a bespectacled man whose hand grows larger and larger. Another consoles fans of TV's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*—five years after the last new episode aired.

One hundred years ago this month, the *Ann Arbor News* declared the new Ann Arbor Garage on Maynard "one of the finest garages in America." Well lit by DC power (also useful for charging electric automobiles), it sold a range of models, including the Carter, the Maxwell, the Royal Tourist, and the Thomas-Detroit. Only about forty cars were owned in Ann Arbor in 1908 (Coldwater had 100 more than that), but the new garage was working to change that. To encourage city dwellers to tour the surrounding countryside, it installed metal signs on many miles of area roads.

What does it cost?

$28,000—Amount the Main Street Area Association is raising to maintain forty-two flower beds this summer through its "A2 Flower Power Project"

$500—Donation needed to sponsor one flower bed (includes thank-you plaque)

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The May 6 Schools Vote

The AAPS asks voters for an early millage renewal—and a U-M student seeks a seat on the school board.

BOTH PHOTOS GRIFFIN REAMES

Grad student and activist Adam Hollier is challenging incumbent Helen Gates-Bryant.

The state's economic troubles and declining enrollment (200 fewer students this year than last) have put the district in a corner, staring unhappily at a potential $5 million deficit. Although superintendent Todd Roberts emphasizes that laying off teachers is the school board's last choice, board members will be spending the next several weeks (the fiscal year ends June 30) deciding how to balance the books in a way that will make district parents the least unhappy.

At the same time, the school system is trying to secure what funding it does control by asking the voters for early renewals of two key operating millages: an eighteen-mill tax on commercial property, and an approximately twelve-mill "homestead" tax on principal homes and farms. (Because most of the homestead millage was replaced by state sales taxes in 1994, less than five mills is actually collected.)

Together, the two taxes provide almost half of the schools' operating funds. In addition, the district is requesting renewal of a one-mill "sinking fund" for building repairs.

When it was passed in 2004, the sinking fund was described as a way to free up operating funds for Skyline High. Conflicts over whether to build a third comprehensive high school, and related board-administration tensions, fueled angry school elections in the early years of this decade. But with Skyline due to open this fall and only one board seat up for grabs, this month's election is scarcely making a ripple. U-M urban studies grad student and activist Adam Hollier is having to work hard to get voters to notice that he's challenging incumbent Helen Gates-Bryant.

Gates-Bryant, fifty-three, is a five-year board veteran. The parent of two district graduates and a purchasing specialist at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, she says she's helped make the district's contract bidding more efficient, and cites the hiring of an in-house attorney as a major accomplishment. She also thinks the district has taken steps toward closing the African American "achievement gap" through efforts like increased training of staff. Looking ahead, Gates-Bryant emphasizes the need to find "alternative ways of finding school funding," including more legislative lobbying.

Hollier, twenty-two, also emphasizes the need to find extra funding, in part by increasing awareness of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation. "If everyone in Ann Arbor gave thirty dollars [to the schools], there'd be no deficit," he says. He'd like to see the schools reach out more to their alumni and expand cooperation with the U-M—if education undergrads spent more time in the public schools, he says, teachers would be free to do more curricular planning. He would also like to increase students' awareness of career possibilities, by bringing in not just professionals but workers in skilled trades.

In hard times, no one takes anything for granted. So although the millage renewals would usually be a no-brainer, skittish administrators and parents have mobilized. Four community meetings to discuss the millage were scheduled for April and another for May, and a citizens' millage committee is rounding up supporters, including former mayor Ingrid Sheldon, former school administrators Bob Galardi and Joetta Mial, and University Musical Society president Ken Fischer.

Homegrown Circus

"People go to get jostled," says Chuck Rock.

Rock is dressed in black leather with raven blue hair, facial piercings, and an almost-perfect smile. The only flaw in his matinee-idol good looks is a chipped front tooth. He broke it, he says, during a stunt with a spring-loaded mousetrap.

As "Preposterous the Clown," Rock recently performed in "The Circus Extravaganza" at the Blind Pig and Ypsilanti's Dreamland Theater. Besides setting mousetraps too close to his mouth, he pounds nails into his nose, and he lies on a bed of nails while an accomplice pulverizes a cement block on his chest. In warmer weather, he organizes the Arsons Blazing Carnivale and Sideshow Extravaganza, where he juggles flaming torches, eats fire, and walks on burning coals.

At twenty-nine, Rock is revered by teens and twenty-somethings in attendance as the grand old man of local geeks. The circus, a loosely knit collective of street performers, geeks, freaks, a burlesque troupe, and sundry other fringe folk, recently left the confines of house parties, private venues, and street corners to bring its acts into local theaters.

Rita Riggs, pretty in pink—pink feathery hair; pink feathers on her pink and white short shorts and belly-baring midriff top—organized the circus. Just nineteen years old, the one-time Clonlara student greets audience members, books the venues and the acts, briefs the press, and designs, poses for, and posts the flyers.

Maintaining a cute, girlish demeanor, Riggs joins Jelly Boy the Clown onstage. She tilts up her tush to have a large vegetable sliced on it—with a roaring chain saw. Jelly Boy quickly reminds you of why clowns have always been scary. He's a skinny guy with a repertory of smutty jokes who permits all comers to staple cash to his face and body (though not on the spine or throat—the goal is to shock, not to die).

Riggs joins Jelly Boy in some of his more grotesque stunts—think tubes up noses and out mouths slurping bloody red substances. She pertly curtsies and winks before mimicking his actions. They met in Philadelphia, where she finished high school and Jelly Boy was a street performer. She says he can't resist teaching pretty girls how to pound nails up their noses and swallow swords.

A trained clown, Riggs doesn't see a major discordance among Jelly Boy's, her own, and other styles of showmanship. Some acts are intended for adults and others for children, she says. She describes the Tickled Fancy Burlesque Co., with which she performs, as a traditional act celebrating and respecting women's bod-

PETER LEIX

Chuck Rock chews lightbulbs as "Preposterous the Clown."

ies, because it includes women of various builds and ages. Still, she says, they might not strip down to pasties when children are present.

Riggs does acknowledge differences and sometimes clashes between body modifiers (freaks), geeks (people who perform grotesqueries), and more conventional performers (burlesque artists). Riggs says people who permanently change their bodies—the self-styled freaks—expect performers who aren't modified to go farther in their acts. That is where the skill

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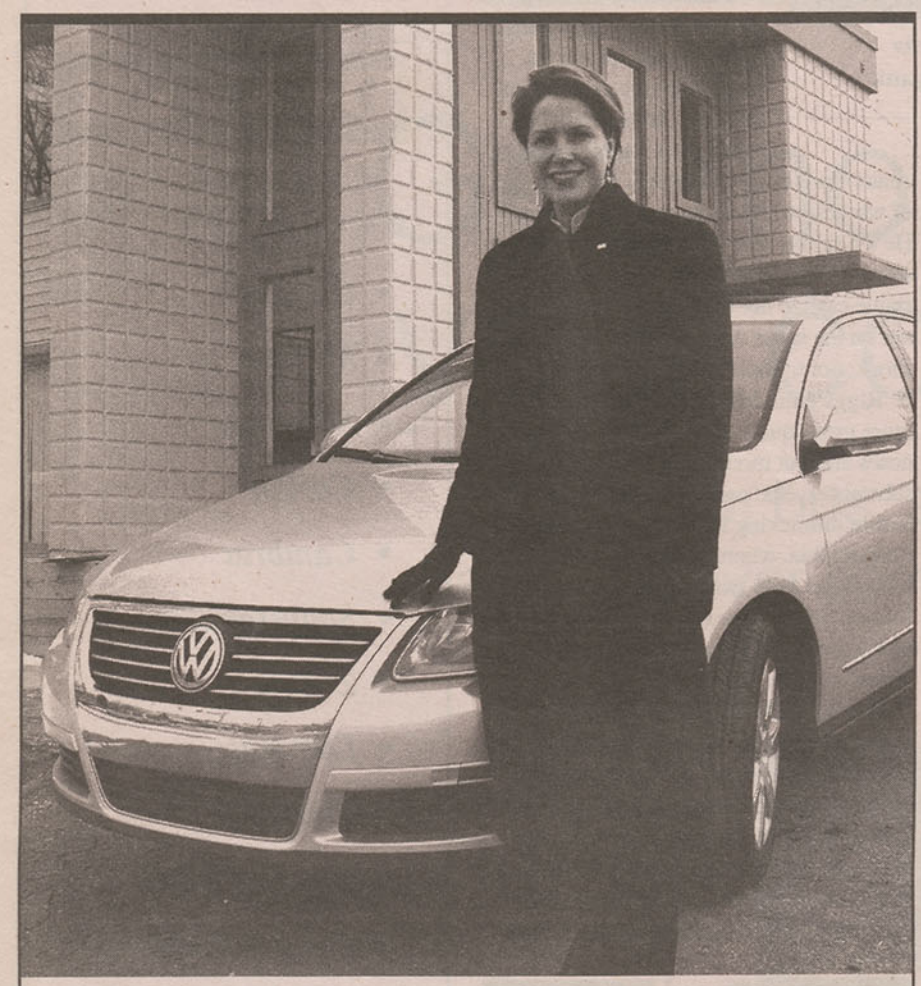

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level really counts, she maintains. Stunts like sword swallowing, nail pounding, glass eating, and fire spinning are "not about hurting your body, but learning its limits," she says.

There is no question, according to Chuck Rock, that the performers intend to startle viewers—to "shake people's cage." But, Rock insists, they are not like the folks on the television show *Jackass*, simply kicking each other's privates and swallowing foreign objects.

Rock finds Jackass *"vulgar, coarse, and offensive—lacking in merit or skill." While admitting to being at the "wild-ass end of sideshow performance," he sees his act as an extension of his lifestyle, which tends toward the communal. He is vegetarian, but he's tolerant of the Yodeling Mad Monk, aka Matt Nesbit, who eats roadkill as part of the Arsons Sideshow. "He doesn't kill animals," Rock explains. "He is respectful."*

The Return of 42 North

Neighbors won their battle against an apartment project on Maple Road—but could still lose the war.

The battle began in late 2006. Pastor Jack Glupker of Grace Bible Church, looking to build a gymnasium and add more classrooms, found a buyer for two acres of undeveloped land right next to the church on South Maple. Wood Partners, an Atlanta-based developer specializing in student housing, planned five four-story buildings containing a total of 160 four-bedroom, four-bath apartments.

"We had multiple offers for the property," Glupker says, "and Wood Partners was not the highest bidder. But we looked at their projects and saw that they have a quality product and that they're trustworthy, which is much more important to us."

To judge from the planning meetings last fall, few neighbors shared Glupker's confidence. "They were the wildest meetings I've seen since I started working here," says a city staffer who asked not to be named. "The neighbors who went to the meetings really hated it."

They especially hated the plan to target student tenants. "There are no more undesirable neighbors than students," one speaker declared. If they moved in, she predicted, property values would fall "due to trash, vandalism, and increased crime." Another described the neighborhood as one of the city's "most diverse"—then adding, paradoxically, that student housing "simply does *not* fit the area."

Jack Eaton from the Friends of Dicken Woods took a different tack, declaring the plan environmentally "insane." Eaton predicted that the project would overstress the area's water and sewer systems and that increased storm-water runoff would swamp the neighborhood. Because of its location at the city's highest point, he added, 42 North would "tower over this peaceful neighborhood."

GRIFFIN REAMES

Grace Bible Church pastor Jack Glupker says the church cut its asking price to persuade 42 North's developers to revise their plans.

question corner

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"All these issues have been raised since day one by your planning staff," Matt Marshall of Wood Partners told the planning hearing. "And we've responded to each and every one."

Matthew Kowalski, the planning staffer who worked on the project, agrees. "They were very responsive and they resolved every issue," he says. The company agreed to build its own pumping station so local water pressure wouldn't be affected. By consolidating the property's twelve puddles into a single pond and adding cisterns, the company would actually reduce stormwater runoff. The city concluded that the sewers already in place could handle the increase in waste, and the developers agreed to set the buildings farther back to reduce their visibility from Maple.

Marshall says that the company has built more than 100 student apartment projects around the country and that dealing with neighborhood opposition is just part of doing business. What made Ann Arbor unique, he says, was the neighbors' "emotionalism. They don't think things through at all. They truly disliked our plan, and there was nothing I or anybody else—even their own experts—could do to change their minds."

Marshall says he saw "rude behavior and irrational fears" at earlier neighborhood and planning commission meetings—but nothing topped the moment at city council's public hearing when Kevin Parks, a self-described military veteran and member of a Christian antidevelopment group, declared that if council approved the project, he and they would stop it "by any means necessary. We're nonviolent, but this means war!"

"I'd never been threatened before in my life," says Marshall. "And [it happened] right there in public at a city council meeting!"

Council averted the threatened war by rejecting 42 North on a 10–1 vote. But the church still wanted to sell the property, and it agreed to cut its asking price if Wood Partners would revise and resubmit the project. And so a downsized version of 42 North was back in the planning process a scant six weeks later.

"We heard what the neighbors had to say," Marshall says of the revised design, "and we've incorporated what they want. They didn't like the height, so in the new plans, we've cut off the top floor and decreased the height from forty-nine feet to thirty feet. That means that instead of a hundred and sixty apartments, we'll have only a hundred and twenty apartments; instead of six hundred and forty tenants, we'll have only four hundred and eighty people; instead of six hundred and forty parking places, we'll have four hundred and ninety-two."

Marshall is too polite to mention it, but the changes also tilt the balance of power sharply in the developers' favor. The original design was a "planned project," one where the city lets the developer exceed certain zoning requirements in return for a greater degree of control over the plans. Because the new one complies fully with the site's existing zoning, it's a "by-right project": barring exceptional circumstances, the property owners have a legal

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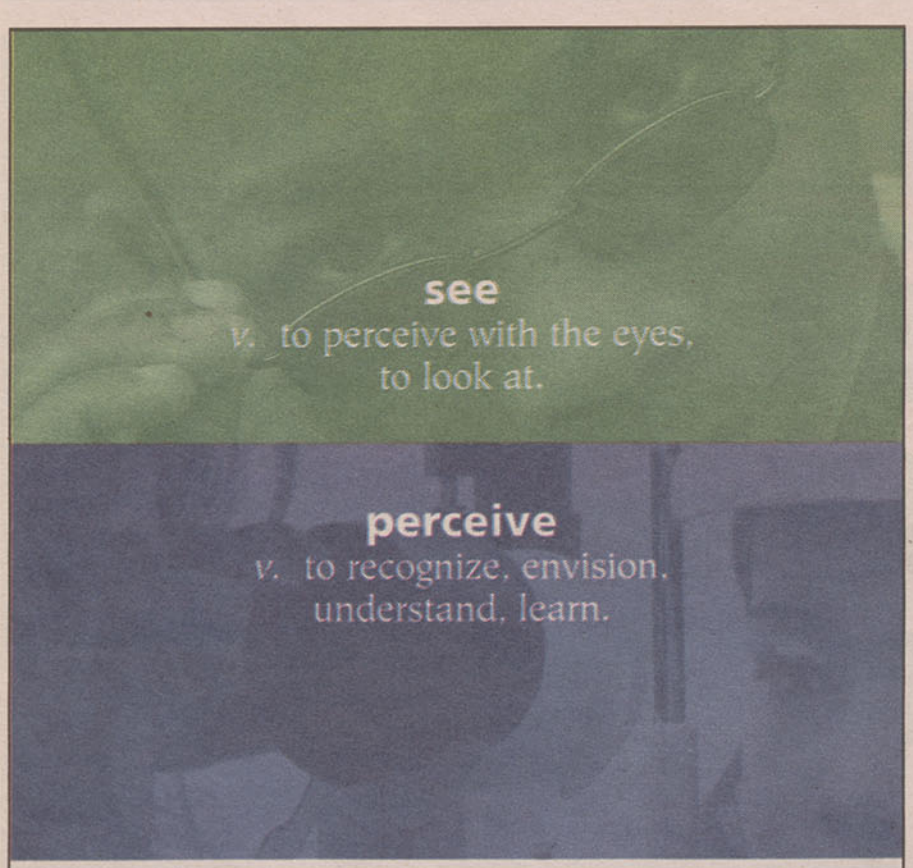

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right to build it. If council turns the new plan down, Wood Partners will be well positioned to sue the city.

Jack Glupker still has trouble seeing what all the fuss is about. "Everybody has a vested interest. I understand that," he says. "But we're right next door. Nobody has a higher level of concern than we do. And we're satisfied."

The pastor suspects another factor may be fueling the furor: some neighbors have long treated the church property as a de facto park. "We have neighbors who think that Grace Bible Church property is public property," he says, "and they use it all the time to walk their dogs."

Animal House

The Humane Society of Huron Valley is just one vote away from building a new animal shelter.

Dating from the early 1950s, the existing facility on Cherry Hill Road is one of the most outdated and overcrowded shelters in Michigan. But HSHV executive director Tanya Hilgendorf has lobbied for a replacement almost since she arrived in 2005, and the drive was jump-started in 2006, when piano and voice teacher Virginia Sory Brown heard about the dream to replace the crumbling facility once a major donor was found. "It was obvious I was that person," says Sory Brown, who has a passion for rescuing dogs and was about to inherit money from her father's estate in Tennessee. After talking with Hilgendorf, she made a $1 million pledge.

Last year Sharon Rothwell, a Masco vice-president and an HSHV supporter since she moved to Ann Arbor in 2001, agreed to chair a capital campaign. By the time the fund-raising effort officially kicked off last October, the group had already raised $4.4 million, including a $1 million HSHV board-designated gift, transferred from its operational reserve, and $1 million from Washtenaw County, which contracts with HSHV to house stray and abused animals. The county also approved a $6.5 million bond issue for the facility, and agreed to increase its annual contract payment from $300,000 currently to $500,000 in 2010.

The downside of the county contract is that the shelter can't pick and choose the animals it accepts. "We are an open-admissions shelter . . . and serve as the county impound facility for strays and bite cases," Hilgendorf says. She adds that because HSHV takes in "aggressive animals, cruelty cases, and other seriously ill and injured animals," it has "an obligation to euthanize the dangerous and the suffering."

Euthanasia is a source of great tension among animal lovers, and the issue has cost HSHV support in the past. Hilgendorf stresses that it's a last resort. "We are animal lovers who abhor euthanasia," she says. "But simply refusing to do it will not end it."

She says that in the two years before her arrival, the shelter had a "save rate" of 51 percent—that is, just over half the animals brought in "walked in the door and back out again." The save rate increased to 55 percent in 2005, 65 percent in 2006, and 68 percent in 2007. "With a modern shelter," she says, "we intend to increase our save rate even more."

To gather ideas, Hilgendorf and others visited more than twenty model shelters around the nation. Then a design team of staff and volunteers met weekly with Jan Culbertson, a principal in A3C Collaborative Architecture, until they were satisfied the new design would meet eight goals set down by HSHV, including increasing adoptions, more public education, and "becoming a better neighbor by being quieter, more aesthetically pleasing, and more environmentally friendly."

Three times the size of the old shelter, the new building will have separate entrances and spaces for different functions, much-needed prep and surgical areas for the veterinary clinic, covered cat and puppy porches indoors and outdoors, glass kitten condos, and covered, sound-absorbing kennels. Culbertson says the new facility will be especially healthy for animals, because efficient geothermal heating and cooling and a heat-exchange ventilation system will allow ten air changes per hour.

Boosted by a new $150,000 challenge grant from the Ann Arbor–based James A. & Faith Knight Foundation, HSHV hopes to reach its $8 million fund-raising goal by the end of this year. The final remaining hurdle is to secure the building site. The current shelter sits on 3.3 acres donat-

COURTESY HUMANE SOCIETY OF HURON VALLEY

The Humane Society's new animal shelter will be three times the size of the old one—making room for much-needed prep and surgical areas, covered cat and puppy porches, glass kitten condos, and sound-absorbing kennels.

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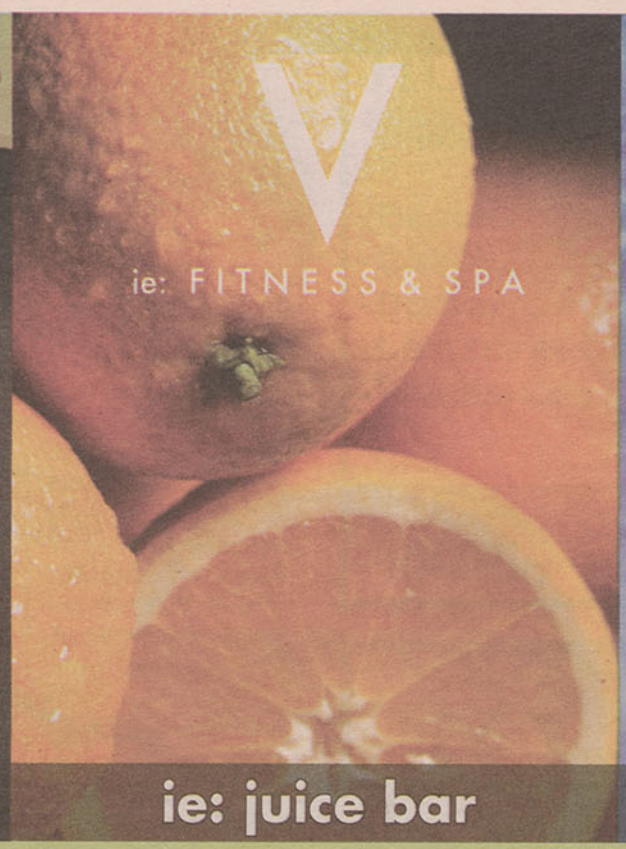

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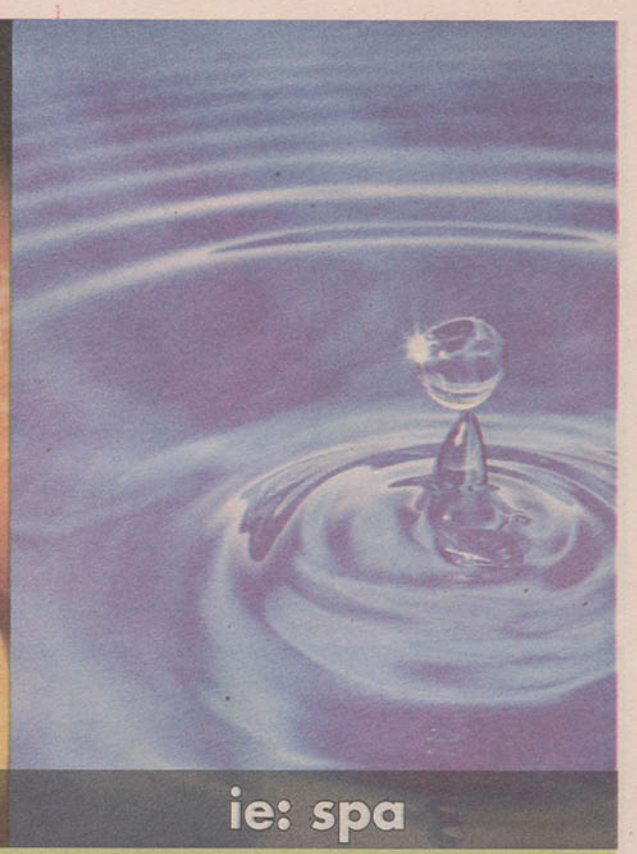

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ed in 1949 by Frederick and Mildred Matthaei—the same couple who later gave the U-M much more land to the south and west, creating what is now the 200-acre Matthaei Botanical Gardens. HSHV has offered the U-M $240,000 for close to five acres of property just south of the current shelter. Part of the land would be used for the new building, with the rest maintained as a buffer between the shelter and the gardens.

If the U-M regents vote to approve the sale this month, it will take about a year to replace a shelter built to warehouse animals with an environmentally friendly model of humane care.

The Bizarre Dance

Community meets commerce at the Old Yellow Barn.

Britten Stringwell is fascinated with spaces and the way people interact in them. As a U-M undergrad a few years ago, she designed her own major in "environment and behavior." Now she's hosting what she calls "The Bizarre Dance," a monthly "salon for sharing" in the former Fireside Country Store at 416 West Huron.

Stringwell and building manager Bill Gross share a utopian vision of connection and creative interchange across different strata of society. Gross once worked for Channel 56 in Detroit and was part of an artists' collaborative there in the 1970s; he still speaks wonderingly of how "kids, seventy-year-olds, white, black" came together over an open mike. Now, with Stringwell's help, he's trying to re-create something like that in what he calls the Old Yellow Barn. He's painted it a welcoming bright yellow, planted gardens around it, and made it available for art projects.

Aside from one nook for Roos Roast Coffee, most of the interior is now a large

GRIFFIN REAMES

Britten Stringwell and Bill Gross promote creative collaboration at the Old Yellow Barn on Huron.

open space. For the Bizarre Dance, it's filled with people of all ages and occupations whom Stringwell met at the Shadow Art Fair and at other meetups of the area's struggling artists. The happenings on the last Saturday of each month are very spontaneous: different musicians show up to play for early socializing and dancing, musical instruments are available for people to experiment with, and people bring in food.

The dance itself is built around the "Unihood Unification Project," featuring Stringwell's handmade headgear, which she sells online (brittenstringwell.com) and in the Yellow Barn. She makes the unihoods out of reused fabrics, and constructs them so they can be worn as a hood clasped at the throat, twisted into a hat, or around the neck. The participants in the dance are asked to wear monochrome clothing and to "model" a unihood, often individually designed. They emerge into the open area as a line, dancing and moving along a pathway described by tree branches laid on the floor. After they have circled the room together, each one in turn does a small performance. At a recent dance one participant blew bubbles, another played the ukulele, Tamara Real of the Arts Alliance recited a poem, and Margaret Parker described the programs of the Ann Arbor Art Center.

Unihoods aren't the only product for sale at the Bizarre Dance. At one recent session, John Roos sold coffee, Brian Widmaier displayed his paintings, and Melissa Lekkner circulated with a platter filled with her own sewn art—severed unicorn heads.

calls & letters

The Chop House responds

To the Editor:

I would like to express concern we have regarding a recent review of The Chop House. Although some good points were mentioned, the tone of the review was unnecessarily negative and far from the truth. The main theme was price, which was mentioned several times. We are certainly not the cheapest restaurant in town, this is true. If you compare our prices with restaurants similar in concept such as Ruth's Chris, Morton's, Peter Luger's etc. you'll find we are actually on the low end. Your reviewer obviously did not do her research. In addition to that she clearly showed contempt for the Chop House and the notion of steak houses in general. There was no basis of true comparison and honest opinion in this review.

We take great pride in serving the Ann Arbor community and in our reputation for excellent food, wine and service for the past ten years. Your readers are intelligent individuals and we're certain they will make up their minds for themselves. Our hope is they will do so without this review in mind and continue to support a locally owned and operated restaurant. I hope you will consider the damage such a bias and untruthful review can do the next time you go to print.

Sincerely,
Dorothy McLeod
Corporate Administrator
Mainstreet Ventures Restaurants

Zingerman's in Ypsilanti

To the Editor:

In April, Inside Ann Arbor reported Paul Saginaw's thoughts about opening a Zingerman's business in Ypsilanti. The Observer chose to concentrate on Ypsilanti's low median income, failing to mention other reasons why Zingerman's is considering Ypsilanti.

When I met with Paul Saginaw in February, he told me that he wants Zingerman's to become part of the energy in Ypsilanti. In fact, Saginaw is a member of the Eastern Leaders Group that is spearheading business creation and expansion in the eastern part of Washtenaw County. This group includes, among others, Washtenaw County, EMU, Ann Arbor SPARK, and local business people like Saginaw and Bill Kinley of Phoenix Construction. ELG's first project is a small business incubator called SPARK East to be located in downtown Ypsilanti. It will complement the other two SPARK locations in Ann Arbor.

"To get a lot going in Ypsilanti—that would be fun," Saginaw says in the article. There's already plenty going on in Ypsilanti. We look forward to Zingerman's joining us in the fun.

Paul Schreiber
Mayor of Ypsilanti

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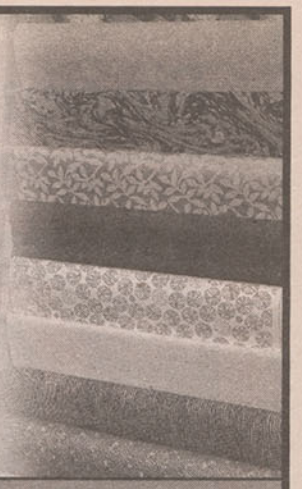

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Washtenaw Woodwrights should be complimented for keeping the project on schedule. Thanks again for an excellent working experience and fine results.

— Tom and Gail Fegan

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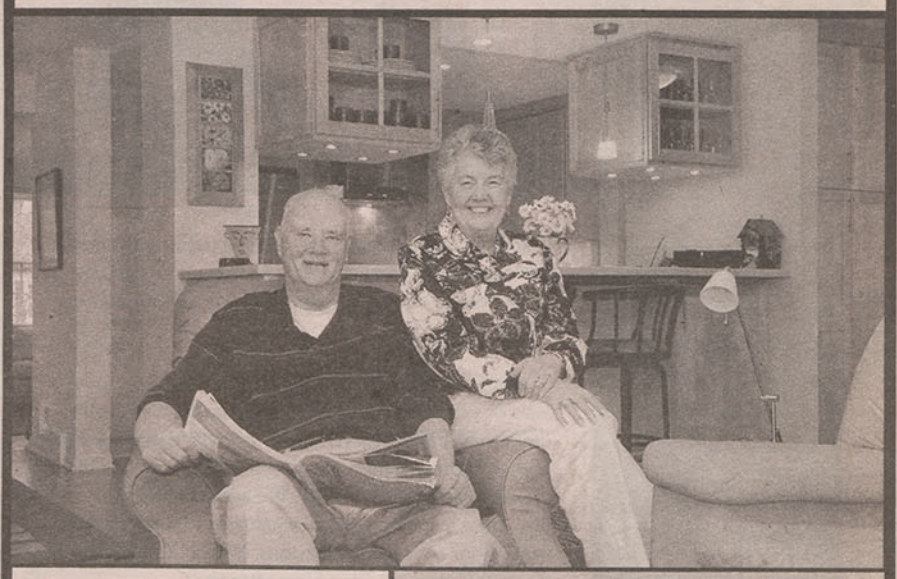

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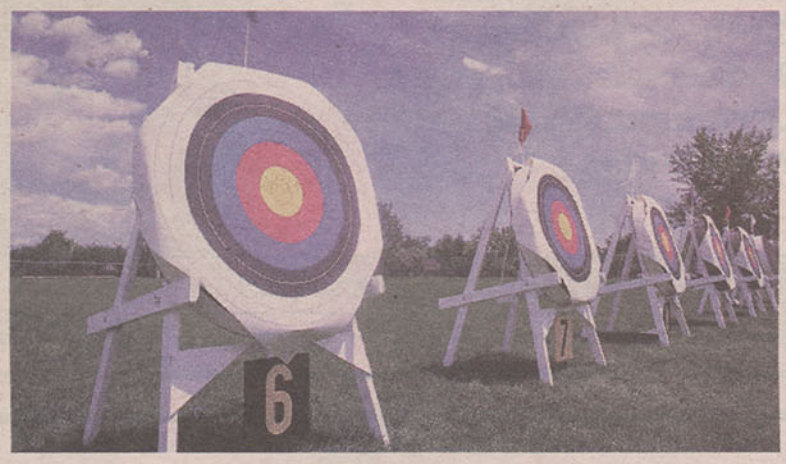

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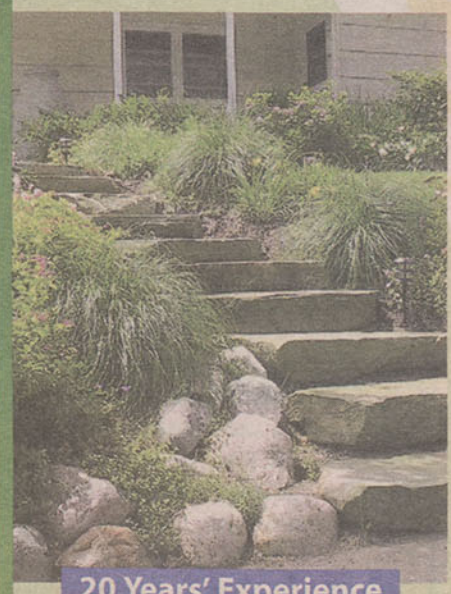

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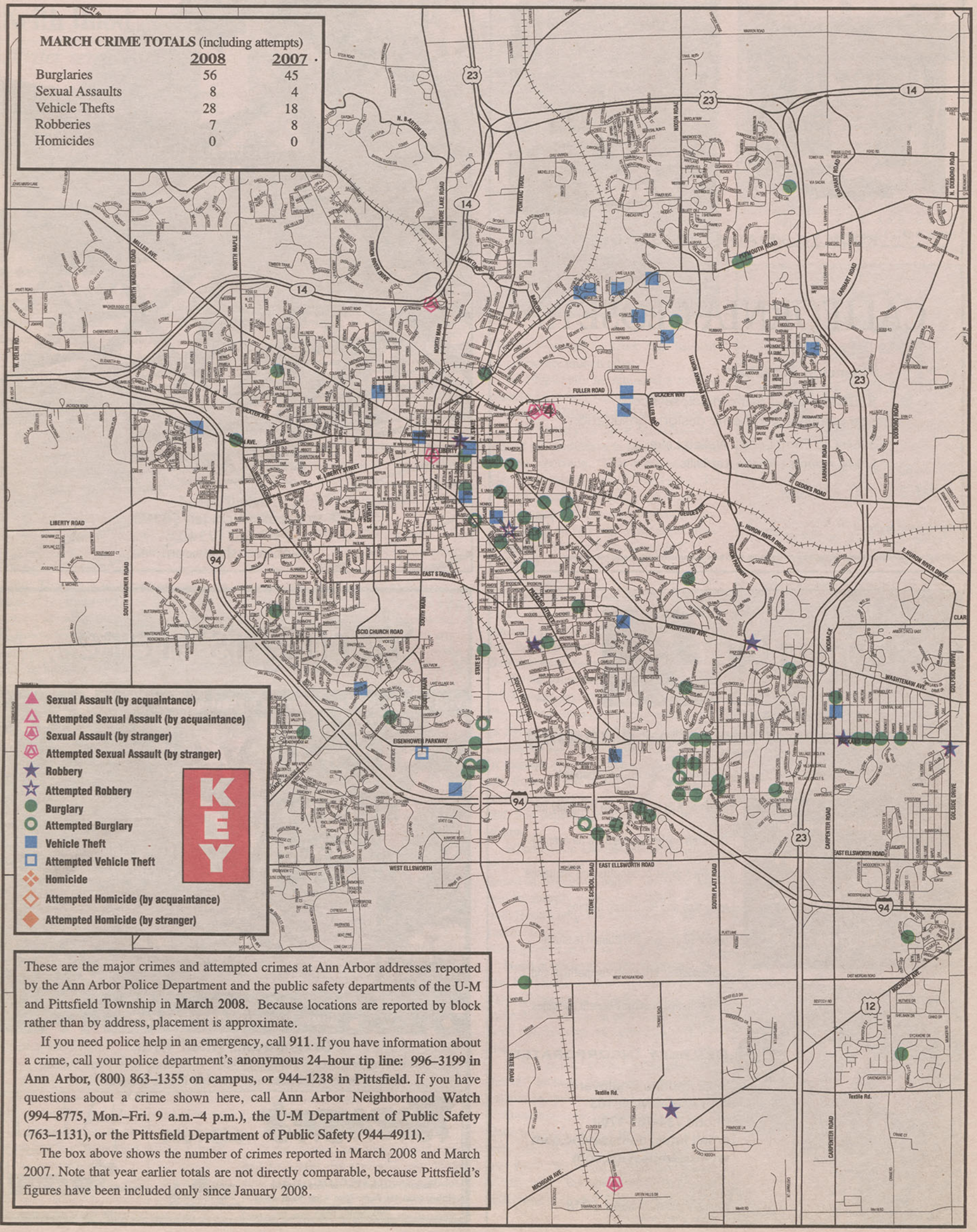
CrimeMap

MARCH CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2008	2007
Burglaries	56	45
Sexual Assaults	8	4
Vehicle Thefts	28	18
Robberies	7	8
Homicides	0	0



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **March 2008.** Because locations are reported by block rather than by address, placement is approximate.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24–hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus, or 944–1238 in Pittsfield.** If you have questions about a crime shown here, call **Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994–8775, Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.), the U-M Department of Public Safety (763–1131), or the Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944–4911).**

The box above shows the number of crimes reported in March 2008 and March 2007. Note that year earlier totals are not directly comparable, because Pittsfield's figures have been included only since January 2008.

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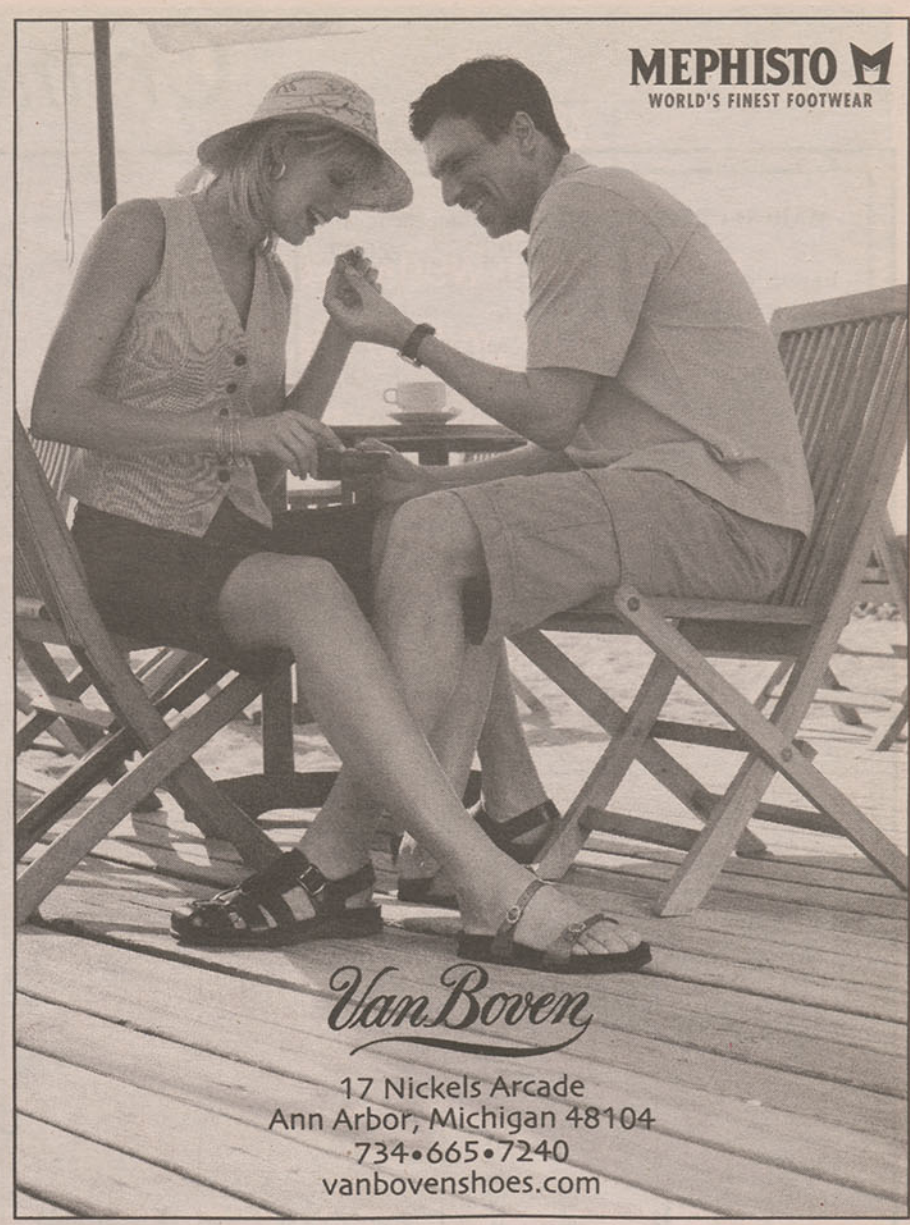

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Ann Arborites

Keith Hood

Writer versus editor

GRIFFIN REAMES

Keith Hood has a dilemma. The latest issue of *Orchid: A Literary Review* has been ready for the printer for a couple months—but Hood, its editor, is uncertain about its future. "All my extracurricular activities are quashing my creativity," he says.

Like a lot of other literary magazine editors, Hood, fifty-four, also writes short stories. What's unusual is that he operates the nonprofit magazine with no university or foundation support—and he's done it while holding down a full-time job at DTE Energy. As a senior service representative, he spends his days setting up new customer service accounts and troubleshooting meter and other electrical problems.

Hood began *Orchid* not because it was practical but because he and cofounders Maureen Aitken and Cathy Mellett saw a need for a magazine that would promote short fiction and foster new writers. Published twice a year, *Orchid* quickly earned praise from the literary establishment, and manuscripts poured in at the rate of 200 a month.

On the *Orchid* website, Hood now describes its founding as "a moment of collective insanity." He says Aitken and Mellett regained their sanity and resigned in 2004. Though a new person came on board, Hood found himself spending thirty hours a week on the magazine—reading submissions, talking with authors, and typesetting.

"I get passionate about stuff," he says. "I don't think about the time."

Most creative writers struggle with the conflict between making a living and making art. But Hood also finds himself torn between helping other writers and doing his own writing. Both impulses are rooted in a life-defining moment from his childhood. When he was in elementary school, he saw some white friends being chased by a large group of black children. Hood, who is African American himself, opened the door and hid his friends from the crowd.

"What appeals to us in fiction is based on our own life narrative," he reflects. "What appeals to me are stories with an element of survival."

On the Orchid *website, Hood describes the magazine's founding in 2002 as "a moment of collective insanity." He says his cofounders regained their sanity and quit in 2004.*

"I always wanted to write, but I got sidetracked," Hood says, letting loose an easy laugh that makes him sound like a kid who just pulled a prank on unsuspecting adults.

In 1976 he and his wife, Teresa, were attending the U-M, living off student loans and part-time jobs. He was studying journalism and creative writing. Teresa, a painter, was pursuing a fine arts degree when she became pregnant.

"It wasn't really planned," Hood recalls. "Teresa was only a semester away from finishing; it did not make sense for her to quit. So I quit. . . . I never finished." To support the family, he started a janitorial and window-washing business. Their son, Micah, was born in early 1977, followed by daughter Tiana in 1979.

"I ran the business for ten years," Hood says. "I didn't write. Teresa just stopped [her art] too. We focused our life on raising our kids. We were glad to do it."

Though cleaning paid well, it wasn't really a career. "I made a ton of money, but we didn't have any health insurance," Hood explains. "Drove Teresa crazy." So he eventually closed the business and took a job as a meter reader at Detroit Edison. To his surprise, he found that the change resurrected his inner writer.

"I remember it was 1987. A lady I worked with was reading a Star Trek novel. . . . I considered it junk, but I respected her intelligence. So I read one, and I thought, 'Hey, I can write this.' "

Hood attempted to sell a couple of scripts to the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* TV series, but he was turned down. Then he read a famous story by Joyce Carol Oates, "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" Oates's story focuses on a fifteen-year-old girl forced by a dangerous man to make a life-and-death choice. "It amazed me the amount of tension she put into a story about everyday life," he recalls. He began writing short stories and sending them out to literary magazines.

"I got rejected and rejected and rejected," he laughs. He studied books on creative writing, but the rejections continued. Finally he found help through writing conferences and, at last, sold a short story—"Utility"—which, he jokes, "had been rejected twenty million times."

In 1998–1999 he attended a writing conference at the Cranbrook community in Bloomfield Hills, led by Dan Mueller of the University of New Mexico—and gained the confidence to facilitate his own writing workshop. "That conference with Dan was a turning point," Hood says. "He has that structure he uses [with writers]. I didn't have to be an educated professor. All I had to do was ask, 'What about structure? And character? And language?' "

Hood launched his Critical Connections Fiction Workshops in September 1999, and the group has met monthly ever since. Almost all the participants have gone on to publish; Randy DeVita's "Riding the Doghouse" appeared in the 2007 *Best American Short Stories*.

Orchid grew out of the workshops in 2002. Hood says the founders were troubled by "the demise of great journals such as *Story* and *American Short Fiction*. We wanted to add a new voice to the handful of journals dedicated to publishing primarily fiction." But with just 300 paid subscribers, *Orchid* was never able to pay its staff and depends on donations to pay its writers.

When Aitken and Mellett left in 2004, Michigan State grad Amy Sumerton joined as executive editor. However, she had to sharply reduce her hours when, with Hood's help, she became program director at 826michigan, the all-purpose writing center in downtown Ann Arbor.

Hood is president of the 826 board. He also has taught mystery writing to Detroit kids and organized a Barack Obama fundraiser. But of all his volunteer activities, he says, "*Orchid* saps me more than anything else."

At this point, "*Orchid* is hanging by a thread," he says. "I am just opening envelopes and putting out rejection notices."

Sumerton, however, insists that even if Hood suspends *Orchid*, the magazine will never die. "It might be ten years between issues. . . . We might change how we do it," she says. "But whenever Keith's focus shifts back to *Orchid*, I am ready to help."

—Catherine Zudak

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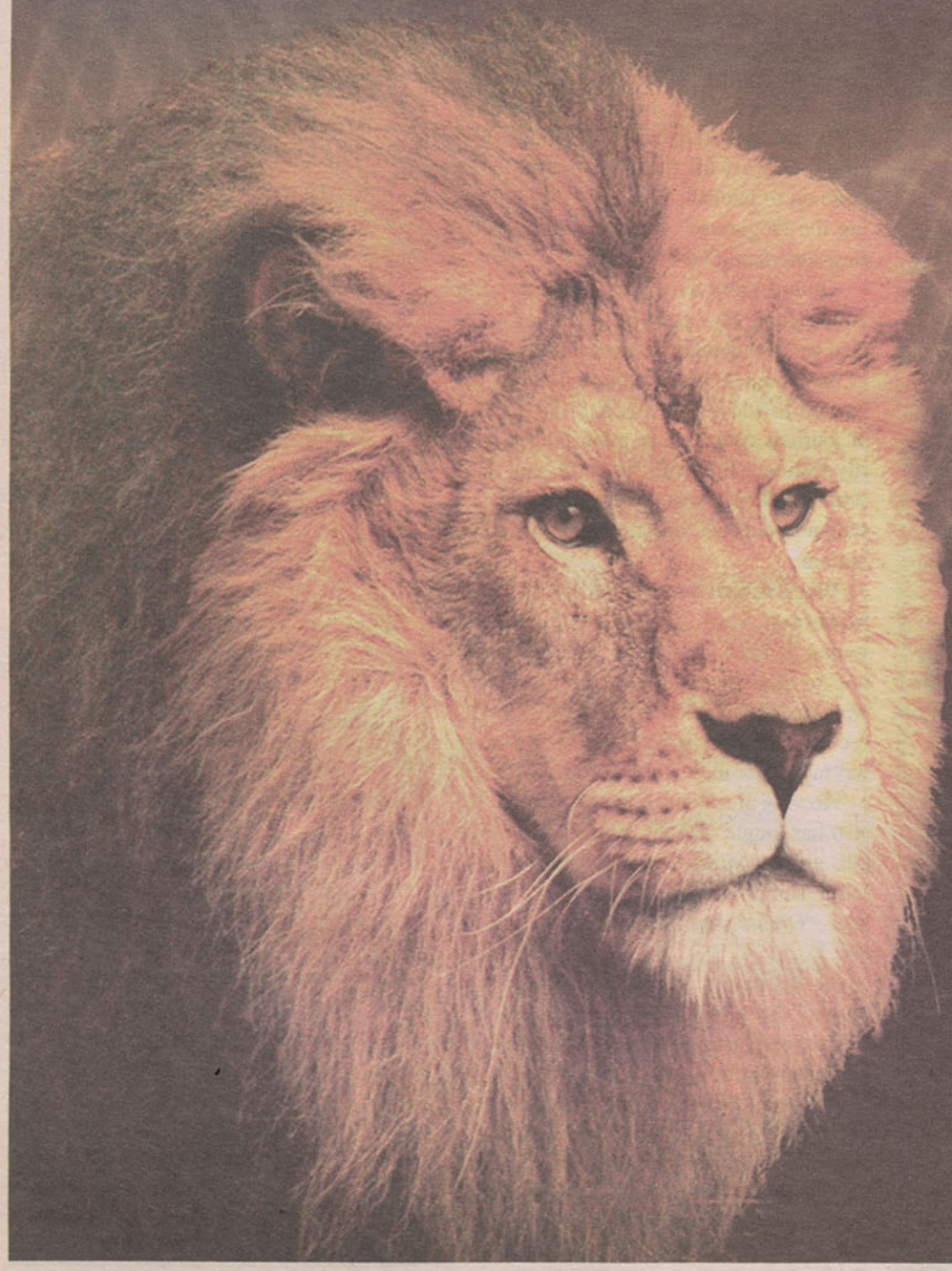

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Of dogs and houses

Does size matter?

When we moved to Ann Arbor two winters ago, smaller digs in a bigger town seemed a good thing. A big dog wasn't part of the plan.

When my husband and decided to move to Ann Arbor, we thought it would be a good time to downsize our lives. Our last kid had left the big old Norwegian Lutheran wood-frame house in Northfield, Minnesota, for college, leaving us with the detritus of twenty years of child-rearing. Smaller digs in a bigger town seemed a good thing. A big dog wasn't part of the plan.

We knew how to do small, my husband and I. We began life together with a three-month autumn honeymoon in the Canadian Rockies, living with our two little dogs in a little cedar camper on the back of a '49 Chevy pickup. Academic life can mean lots of moves, and we've since lived on both coasts and in between, always with dogs in tow.

We arrived here two winters ago, trading one M state for another and renting for a few months as we tried to figure out the lay of the land. We brought along our aging Jack Russell and her feisty daughter—compact dogs who ask for little more than eye contact, supper, and walks. They'd be no obstacle to our desire to live with less—less stuff, less space, less expense, less commuting and heating and dusting.

We settled on a lovely little bungalow on Spring Street and began our new life in our new town—two humans, two small dogs, and just enough room. Okay, so it would grow crowded when grown kids and their partners and their dogs visited. But visits would come to an end, and we'd get our space back.

Our daughter Anna, meanwhile, decided to head to the Netherlands for graduate school. We'd raised her to think of dogs as part of the family—not tied or kenneled out back but entering into conversations and affecting things like vacations and visitors and budgets. When life takes turns, we don't get rid of the dog. And so Anna dutifully included in her plans her ninety-pound Rhodesian ridgeback (inherited from a failed relationship).

Anna stood with us in the airport, all of us weeping as Parker got wheeled away in his kennel to fly across the Atlantic. He and his mistress settled in Amsterdam and soldiered on, even as her long hours on campus and commuting were turning him into one sad dog. Anna didn't ask; we offered to take him in while she finished school.

Parker has long legs, quantities of fur, and a big tongue. He's a nice dog with boundless (more like boundful) affection for friend and foe alike. His form fills the love seat he has adopted; in fact, his form pretty much fills any space he occupies.

Having a pony-size dog in a little house requires more dusting and vacuuming and laundry and general cleanup. When he stretches out on the kitchen floor, there's room for little else. After squirrel chases in the backyard, he leaves impressively large footprints inside the door. He has an awfully big bark for a little house, and can outsnore my husband. And it's all working just fine.

He adores us, and the enslavement is mutual. He lives under the thumbs of the terriers. And as it turns out, our neighborhood—a collection of small houses like ours—is home to a lot of big dogs that we meet out on walks, and in the parks up the street, and sauntering past with their masters on quiet evenings. Parker is now part of the neighborhood scene, resting his head on the front porch wall, regally surveying the comings and goings of Spring Street.

Anna misses her companion–running partner–schedule keeper, but she's fallen in love with a Dutch man, and they've bought a little row house there. When she asks, "Do you think Parker will like it," we are hesitant.

It's not just the size of her house and the lack of grass around it, or that they both work long hours, or that dog food is so pricey there. It's that we've grown to love this big dog. He fills up our little house, but he fits—and more and more, we realize it's a good fit.

—Charlotte DeVries

Dr. Spock and Dr. Robertson

A tale of two graduations

The institutional corridors linking the U-M's University Hospital, Cancer Center, and Medical School are lined with photos of graduating medical school classes stretching back generations. But what's up with the Robertsons? 1944 grad "J. T. W. Robertson, M.D." looks remarkably like a younger version of 1973's "J. Robertson, M.D."

J. T. W. Robertson's story was dramatic: in the dark early years of World War II, when it seemed that Hitler might conquer Britain, James Robertson was one of a select group of British medical students brought to safety in America by the Rockefeller Foundation. In the summer of 1942, however, the journey itself was perilous: he missed the first few days of school and arrived without his luggage—he'd lost it when the freighter in which he was crossing the Atlantic was torpedoed.

Robertson finished school in 1944 at the top of his class. With the war still raging, he was immediately called to active duty in the British Army Medical Corps. He left so quickly he didn't complete two minor requirements, and so though his photo was taken and posted with his classmates', he never officially completed an American M.D. degree.

I learned this story in 1972, when I was an associate dean at the Medical School. The dean had received a letter from Robertson and passed it on to me. Robertson recalled his Michigan days fondly and with gratitude, expressed his regret that he never received a degree from Michigan, and asked whether the lack might somehow be remedied, even at that late date.

I took the full story to the school's executive committee, along with a paper Robertson had written on family practice and the health care system in England. After

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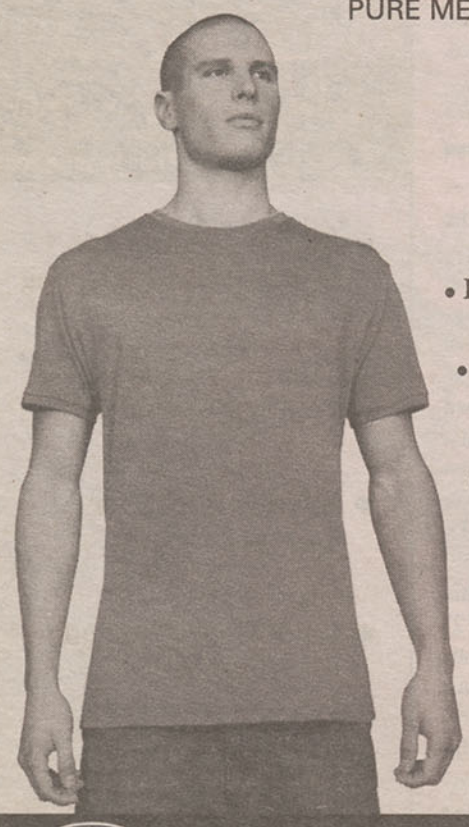

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My **Town** *continued*

confirming Robertson's credentials and career in Britain, they recommended to the executive faculty—who, in turn, recommended to the regents—that Robertson be given the M.D. And so, at the December commencement that year, James Robertson was belatedly awarded his U-M degree.

That commencement is best remembered now for a dispute over the speaker. In previous years, the speaker had been chosen primarily by the dean. Responding to the era's rampant student activism, however, I had told the leaders of the graduating class that they could play a major part in the selection. I asked them to suggest three possible candidates, and so they did: senator Ted Kennedy, Dr. Benjamin Spock, and Robert Young—the actor who played Marcus Welby, M.D., on television.

Senator Kennedy declined, and the school's executive committee vetoed Spock. The official record does not state the reasons, but I believe there were several. Spock, a pediatrician and the author of the most famous baby-rearing book of the time, was a controversial political figure because of his strong opposition to the Vietnam War. In addition, he was actually not an inspiring speaker.

Some members of the executive committee also were skeptical about Young—they basically laughed at me for agreeing with the students that he was a reasonable option. My argument was that Young was an excellent speaker and, despite himself having no medical authenticity, had almost single-handedly popularized the figure of the nonspecialist, general physician. The executive committee finally agreed and invited him.

Some of the students felt betrayed when they learned that Spock would not be the speaker—so they invited Spock to speak at an alternate ceremony. The night before the official event, Spock addressed a crowd of 500 at a "countercommencement." In words still relevant today, he criticized America because it could supply excellent health care to everyone but does not.

The next night, at the regular Medical School commencement, Robert Young addressed a crowd of 2,000. Despite a few hecklers in the audience, he received a hearty ovation.

The hoopla surrounding the two ceremonies was probably the greatest in the history of the Medical School. Adding to the attention, there was yet another, a third speaker, at the official event: J. T. W. Robertson. He addressed his new classmates with a talk entitled "To Dear Old Ann Arbor Town."

Now, if you recheck the picture of the class of 1973, you will find it shows the same James Robertson as the 1944 picture. His is a distinction held by none other in modern times! —*Robert Green*

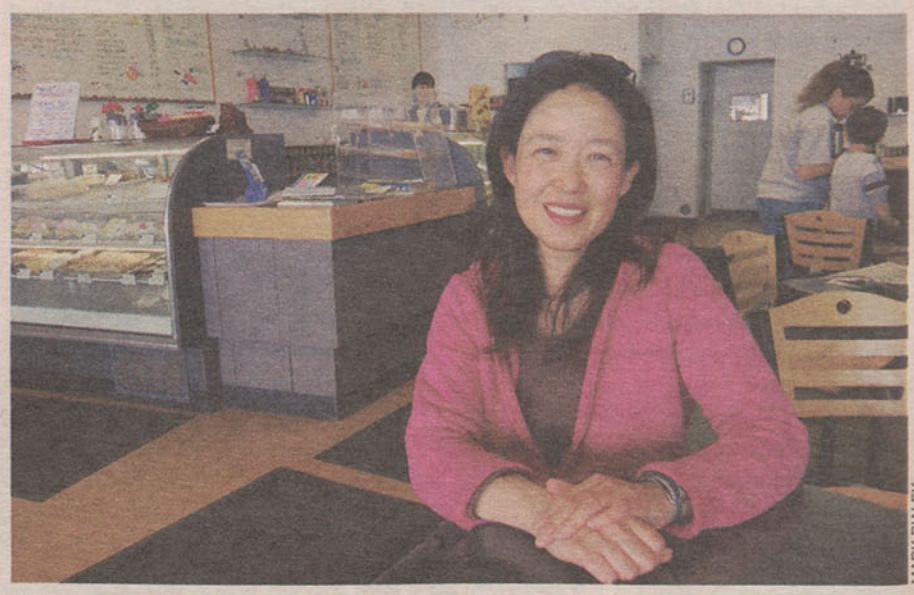
Becoming a townie

It's all in the outlook

In seventeen years of marriage, the one recurring—actually the only—argument my husband and I have ever had was over how I did not like the Midwest. I longed to move back to California, where I grew up—to be closer to my family and out of all this snow. Recently, though, an old college pal moved to Ann Arbor, a hotshot new faculty member at the university. While showing her around, I discovered that I've come to think of Ann Arbor as My City.

Touring the town with weekend visitors is one thing—Zingerman's, the Farmers' Market, the U-M campus. But since she is going to be here awhile, I want to give my friend the Insider's View and show her all of our city's hidden treasures—the raptors at Leslie Science Center, the Jack and the Beanstalk mural at Kerrytown, the fairy door outside Selo/Shevel Gallery, Maya Lin's *Wave Field* tucked away on North Campus.

As I share these tips, I notice how often I refer to places by their old names: I tell her about a mozzarella making class at the old Big Ten Party Store, and then I explain it's now Morgan & York. When she asks where to get persimmons, I tell



MARK BIALEK

As I showed Ann Arbor to my friend, I realized that I've spent almost half my life here. And now that my family is suddenly able to seriously consider the possibility of relocation, I, ironically, am the one who hesitates.

her to go to the old China Merchandise (now China Market) right next to the old Merchant of Vino (now Bello Vino), which is across the street from the old Parke-Davis (which became Warner-Lambert and then Pfizer, which—well, even she knows that sad story).

She phones one afternoon while I'm at Eastern Accents visiting with the owners, Ben Sun and Carol Pon. We arrange to meet there. Just as we are about to hang up I suddenly remember to shout into the phone, "Oh! I'm in the kitchen! In the kitchen."

When we pass the Bank of Ann Arbor, three-year-old Little Brother starts yelling, as he always does, "The lollipop store! The lollipop store!" for the lollipops we "buy" with our deposits.

When I pop in to Bruegger's Bagels to get a bagel for Little Brother, I catch myself feeling offended when my friend chooses to wait outside in the sunshine for the two minutes it will take. This is the old Drake's! How can she not take a moment to look at the pictures on the wall? But of course that was years ago. My friend will never know the joy of those funny little sandwiches in those dark back booths.

Finally we reach the Exhibit Museum, where Little Brother flies to show her the new mastodon, and I simply must show her the whale toes that prove whales moved from the land back to the sea. They were discovered by the father of the twins in my daughter's preschool class. The Gingeriches hosted the best birthday parties—there's nothing cooler for a preschooler than paleontologists for parents.

Afterward we sit in the window at Espresso Royale with a pot of Earl Grey tea. She can hardly believe that when I first came here for grad school, this was the only cafe in Ann Arbor. Every Friday afternoon from 3 to 6, my girlfriend Sharon and I would sit at the second table in the window "holding court" while all our friends and secret admirers would "happen" to find us there. We used to fill half that front window with folks. Now I sit there again, same table, after all these years, and still see so many people I know walking by—dear Kaori, cheery Lola from the PTO, funny Scott Kurashige from American culture, nervous professor Gibbard from my old department, UMS's handsome Ken Fischer in his long blue coat. . . .

It may not be technically possible for someone who was not born or raised here to *become* a townie. But as I showed Ann Arbor to my friend, I realized that I've spent almost half my life here. And now that my family is suddenly able to seriously consider the possibility of relocation, I, ironically, am the one who hesitates.

I recently moved my desk and computer from the basement to the second floor, and I am astonished to discover that I can see the sunset out my bedroom window. It is glorious, and it takes me back to many a sunset over the Pacific Ocean. After nineteen years of complaining that Ann Arbor has no sunsets, I finally discover that what I craved has been here all along; I just needed to rearrange my outlook.

—Frances Kai-Hwa Wang

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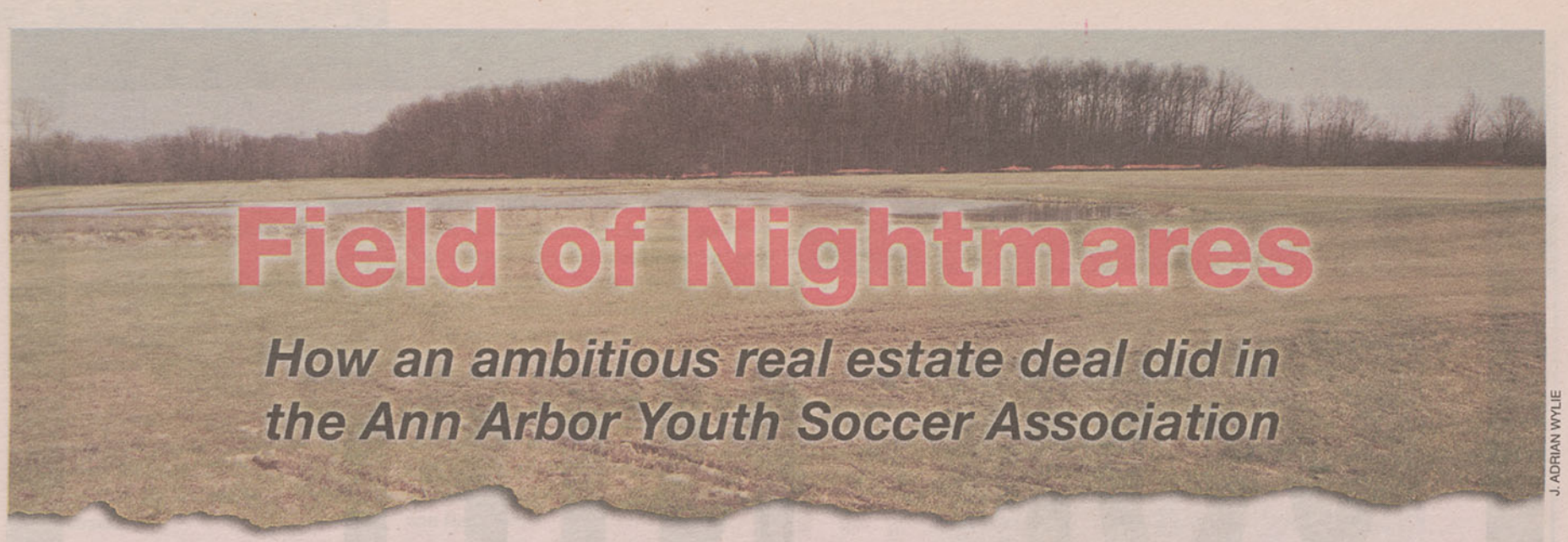

Field of Nightmares

How an ambitious real estate deal did in the Ann Arbor Youth Soccer Association

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

by Vickie Elmer

Just two years ago, the Ann Arbor Youth Soccer Association seemed poised to score a huge victory. After thirteen years of playing on a mishmash of rented fields, the group best known for Arsenal teams was buying its own property. The fields were already laid out on about thirty acres in Pittsfield Township.

In a photo on AAYSA's website, its then president and vice-president, Don Tilton and Mike Concannon, posed proudly with the bankers who'd committed almost $600,000 to the project. Tilton predicted the twelve fields would be ready that fall. AAYSA's "longtime dream," Tilton reported to members, was about to become a reality.

Today that dream looks more like a nightmare. AAYSA's teams never played in Pittsfield, and in December, the group sold the land.

Tilton, who stepped down in 2006, has sued AAYSA for money he spent on the project. His successors on the board of directors have sued him back, blaming him for the disaster. And the club is at death's door.

Just a few years ago, AAYSA had the best youth soccer programs in town. Its reputation for fielding the city's best coaches and teams attracted hundreds of families every year who willingly paid $1,000 or more in fees. It gave back to the community through its "Top Soccer" program for kids with disabilities and through scholarships for low-income children. And it had a payroll of nearly $200,000 per year.

This spring, no one is being paid. Some staff members have been let go; others are working for free. The group is so short of funds that parents are paying coaches' stipends and other costs out of pocket. New groups and rival teams already have recruited away both coaches and some of AAYSA's best players for the fall.

By then, the club may not even exist. As the Observer went to press, a membership meeting was scheduled to discuss how the organization will be dissolved. Unless a white knight comes forward soon, the Ann Arbor Youth Soccer Association plans to go out of business.

It's a sad, strange story. And perhaps the strangest thing about it is that this isn't the group's first real estate disaster. In 1999 an earlier generation of leaders launched an even more ambitious plan to build a $5.5 million stadium, a restaurant, and fields on 103 acres in Ypsilanti Township.

That time, too, the group bought the land only to find itself unable to complete development. According to AAYSA filings in the Tilton suit, the group lost half a million dollars on the deal. Members subsequently sued the board, charging that because of the property's rolling hills and wetlands, it was never appropriate for soccer fields. Tammie Tischler, the attorney who represented them, says the suit was settled for $100,000, paid by the group's insurance policy that covered directors and officers.

Given that history, why did AAYSA risk another real estate deal so soon? The only official record—the minutes of meetings of its board of directors—is thin and unclear. Former directors, too, are very closemouthed: six of them either didn't return the Observer's calls or refused to comment. Former vice-president Concannon went a step farther: after refusing to be interviewed, the local attorney and developer called the Observer's publisher and warned that this story was likely to get the Observer sued.

The exception was Don Tilton himself. Though he brought two attorneys to the interview, the story he tells is anything but legalistic.

Tilton is tanned and fit, with a bushy salt-and-pepper moustache and a cheerful, upbeat demeanor. An environmental and water consultant by profession, he grows animated when he talks about the AAYSA soccer teams he coached—he started when his daughter was playing, and he continued for five years after she moved on to different teams. At the suggestion of the club's director of coaching, he ran for the AAYSA board and was elected as a member at large in 2003.

At the time, the club was paying $80,000 to $100,000 a year to rent fields from the city, the schools, and others. But some of the practice fields were so beat up, Tilton says, that he had to fill holes with pinecones so players wouldn't trip and fall.

Tilton says the AAYSA board had wanted better fields for a long time. After he joined the board, "I bet we looked at nine pieces of land all around" the area, he says.

After he took over as board president in June 2004, Tilton put out the word to his professional contacts that AAYSA was seeking property for soccer fields. The Pittsfield Township clerk pointed him toward a seventy-three-acre property on the east side of Platt Road between Bemis and Merritt. "This was a really nice piece of ground," recalls Tilton, who continues to serve as a wetlands consultant to the township. "It had good soil, and needed not a lot of grading to keep it in shape" for soccer.

Tilton brought the idea of buying the property to the AAYSA board on February 9, 2005. He also introduced Concannon, who was an AAYSA parent and had volunteered to help with the legal work on the purchase.

The six board members in attendance voted unanimously to develop the purchase agreement while continuing to look at other sites. According to the minutes, they discussed borrowing money from a local bank and Tilton said a development committee would be created to help with a site plan for the property.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

AAYSA long fielded some of the city's best youth teams—but this season is likely to be its last.

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Within days, Concannon drafted a proposed purchase agreement on the property. The five-page contract, dated February 21, 2005, called for $10,000 in earnest money and set a purchase price of $630,000. The soccer group was supposed to line up bank loans within thirty days, according to the contract, which was signed by Tilton and executive director Thomas Olivier. By the board's March meeting, Concannon was nominated for vice-president, and Tilton reported that the sellers were reviewing the contract.

three acres. AAYSA then immediately sold about half of it; Pittsfield Township bought the woods and wetlands on the site for $300,000.

That left the group owing $330,000. A $588,000 loan from Ann Arbor Commerce Bank would easily cover that, leaving about $250,000 to develop the property. The interest-only loan had monthly payments of $3,800—$45,000 a year—with a big balloon payment due around 2011.

"It was a wonderful deal for AAYSA that was only made possible due to the generous terms Ann Arbor Commerce Bank provided us," Tilton said in a May 2006 memo to members. He also cited "the great work by our board of directors" and singled out himself and Mike Concannon for credit.

Former president Don Tilton has sued AAYSA for money he spent on the project. His successors on the board of directors have sued him back, blaming him for the disaster.

Even as the deal was on the fast track, though, there was some troubling financial news. Members of the finance committee reported that AAYSA was owed some $28,000 in past-due soccer fees, and the board discussed using a collections attorney to pursue the deadbeat parents.

The fields were a major topic of discussion at the club's annual membership meeting that April—Tilton answered many questions about the plans, according to minutes. He was especially well informed about the site, because his firm was doing the site planning and creating a wetlands map—one of his areas of expertise. "I donated that to AAYSA," he says. Others also volunteered their time and expertise, he says, including a construction company, which helped put together a budget, and Concannon, who developed the closing documents. In May 2005, Tilton personally paid $12,800 to Pittsfield Township for a site plan review.

In the later litigation, Tilton's successors on the board would characterize that payment as "part of a pattern of activity where Mr. Tilton repeatedly acted outside the scope of his authority, repeatedly misrepresented material facts, and repeatedly failed to include the rest of the board" in decisions. Tilton, though, says he was just helping out: at the time, AAYSA "didn't have the resources to cover" the bill.

That summer Tilton learned that the bank would lend AAYSA only 75 percent of the purchase price and a like amount of the initial construction costs—another issue that would be grist for the litigation, since he allegedly did not share this detail with the board. Tilton denies this, saying the board knew the loan's terms and approved them.

Still, in January 2006, the last contingencies were cleared and AAYSA closed on the purchase. As had been agreed, the association paid $630,000 for the seventy-

Not everyone saw the acquisition in such glowing terms. "It seemed a little risky, owning land," recalls Hugo Braun, a local venture capitalist whose son played for Arsenal for several years.

Braun recalls having the impression that AAYSA was run by "soccer enthusiasts" without much business acumen—he thought some of the structure of the land deal "sounded pretty silly." But though Braun expressed his reservations to other parents and a few board members, he never pressed the issue, and his son continued to play for Arsenal—because, he says, the club was "the best in Ann Arbor, absolutely."

Other members were more concerned with the group's finances and management. The previous December, auditors Park & Co. had chided the board for lax financial controls. They cited reimbursements for unsubstantiated expenses, personal travel charged to the AAYSA credit card, and improper handling of cash payments. The auditors also reported that the group had a negative net worth—meaning it owed more money than it had in assets.

In early 2006 a group of parents approached Warren Bonam about running for the board of directors. An AAYSA parent and a state official, Bonam agreed to run for president at the head of a five-person slate. At the April 2006 membership meeting, all five were elected. When the new board took office that July, it included only two members of the group that had bought the fields. In addition, executive director Olivier departed at about the same time.

Don Tilton was among the directors who left—he chose not to run for reelection, he says, because of work demands. But he vigorously defends both the old board's management and the land purchase. He says that then-treasurer Deb

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Field of Nightmares

Vandermade had identified some issues on cash payments and put new controls in place even before the auditors sent their letter. Vandermade, who resigned as treasurer that March, did not return phone calls, but her resignation letter indicated she felt more work still had to be done on financial oversight. She ended the letter by wishing Tilton the best of luck—and then reminded him of his "fiduciary responsibility to run the operations of the organization in an ethical and sound manner."

The new board members wanted to tighten up AAYSA's procedures and financial controls. But none had campaigned against development of the fields, and at first, Bonam says, the new board, too, expected the project would go forward.

They knew it wouldn't be easy. "We came in thinking we'd have a tall task raising money to complete the project," Bonam recalls. But they were surprised to learn how much more work and money would be required to complete the fields. "The challenges started stacking up and stacking up and stacking up," he says.

"It took us a few months to even find the paperwork on the land deal," recalls Sioban Harlow, a U-M public health prof who was elected to the board with Bonam. "It all was done on ten thousand dollars

Tilton is confident he lived up to his responsibilities. "I think I did all the right things," he says. "The board did all the right things."

Tilton is confident he lived up to that responsibility. "I think I did all the right things," he says. "The board did all the right things."

Before he stepped down, Tilton says, he was starting to put together some of the financial pieces for the club's expanded operations, starting with a naming contract for the new fields. The deal with the Detroit Ignition soccer team promised to bring in $200,000 over five years. "We had enough money to get the soccer fields built," he says. And he says the "little fund-raising committee" had begun the early, silent phase of a capital campaign for a later phase that would include a clubhouse and more amenities.

As the new board took over from the old, much of Tilton's focus was on the playing fields. By the time he left the board in July 2006, an irrigation system had been installed, the fields had been graded and planted, and "the grass was as green as could be," Tilton remembers.

A memo Tilton sent to the new board in the summer of 2006 listed seventeen items that still needed to be done—many of them involving construction contracts. Still, he sees no reason why the fields couldn't have been ready to use that fall, as required by AAYSA's contract with the Ignition. "I thought we were in really good shape," he says.

Asked what went wrong after he left, Tilton simply answers, "I don't know."

"From day one it's been triage," says Warren Bonam. Low key and polite, Bonam retired last year as director of the Michigan Office of Civil Rights Operations. Since then, he says, he's often worked twenty to thirty hours a week on AAYSA business.

down and no capital campaign in place." Harlow, who served as secretary, said she never found any financial analysis on buying and maintaining the fields or any big donor checks for the project.

Tilton had said the club could complete the initial work with the quarter-million-dollar balance on the bank loan. But that number fell far short of what was required by Pittsfield Township in terms Tilton agreed to: more landscaping, and paving the parking lot. Paving alone, Bonam says, would have been a $250,000 expense.

Ultimately, he says, the estimated cost swelled to more than $900,000. But "there was no money" to complete the project, says Bonam. "We were really in the hole before we started," from the previous failed land deal and ongoing operating losses.

Even before it bought the property, AAYSA was not bringing in enough revenue to cover its costs. Membership fees hit $610,000 in 2001 but settled in at around $550,000 to $575,000 for several years after that. As expenses inched up, the association ran a deficit of $21,000 in fiscal 2004 and had to borrow $25,000 from Ann Arbor Commerce Bank to cover operating costs. As the costs for the Pittsfield land started to kick in, AAYSA lost $49,000 in fiscal 2006, which ended just as the new board took office.

Tilton's board had nearly doubled fundraising that year, to $41,000. But Bonam says the new board found no capital campaign in place to raise money for the fields. And the contract with the Detroit Ignition turned out to have many strings attached. Before it could collect the money, AAYSA not only would have to complete the fields but also would have to sell more than 500 tickets to the pro team's games. Bonam says the group tried to do that but eventually realized it couldn't fulfill either part of the deal, and voided the contract.

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Field of Nightmares

Though work stopped in Pittsfield, AAYSA teams continued to play, renting fields as they always had. But with the added costs of carrying the property and paying for the work already done, losses continued to mount: Bonam estimates the group lost $100,000 in fiscal 2007, which ended last June.

Finally, last August, the board called a special membership meeting. Bonam asked the eighty members who attended for permission to sell the property. More than two-thirds voted to sell it, he says.

"It took us a few months to even find the paperwork on the land deal," says board member Sioban Harlow. "It all was done on ten thousand dollars down and no capital campaign in place."

Told they were being sued by former president Tilton, the members also agreed that the board should countersue him for failing to protect the organization's best interests.

Running short of funds for the 2007 fall season, the board raised fees and cut some staff salaries. Even so, AAYSA was so broke by December that the directors realized they could not afford to lease indoor soccer facilities for the usual winter training session. When they shortened the session, some parents stopped paying their fees—further tightening the financial noose, Bonam says.

AAYSA sold the Pittsfield property this past December for $600,000, which covered its purchase price and allowed it to pay outstanding bills from many of the contractors who worked there. But by then, Bonam figures, the association had spent close to $630,000 on it, not counting interest on the loan. So even after the sale, AAYSA's funds were so short that in February the group held another special membership meeting. When Bonam explained that AAYSA needed an additional $72,000 to put on its spring season, some parents yelled and stormed out. But others stayed, and in the next two months, members came forward with nearly $60,000 in pledges.

The pledges made it possible to pay for coaches and fields. In April three dozen teams were practicing in the cool spring air on rented fields at the Ann Arbor Airport. But the future looks bleak. Bonam says the organization has just $7,000 in the bank. Yet it's also under a court order to pay Don Tilton $12,800—and soon may be required to pay much more than that in attorney fees.

Tilton is represented in the litigation partly by his wife, Denise Fawcett. Fawcett's specialty is divorce and family law, and Mike Concannon calls her a legal "pit bull." At an April hearing in Washtenaw County Circuit Court, it was easy to see why.

Fast talking and hard edged, Fawcett questioned why attorneys from Pear Sperling Eggan & Daniels were still representing AAYSA if the group could no longer afford to pay them. She suggested that the seven or eight children on hand, some of them in soccer shorts, should leave the courtroom. (Judge Archie Brown reminded her it was a public courtroom, open to all.) And she drew gasps from some parents and AAYSA board members when she declared that the group was "taking every conceivable action to avoid paying the debt" to her husband—including considering closing the organization.

Don Tilton lays out his case in a much mellower tone. He says he paid the $12,800 because it came due in the spring, when AAYSA's funds typically run low. He says he expected to be repaid once parent fees started to come in again that fall—the debt, he says, was even a line item in AAYSA's 2006 budget. He says he just wants to be repaid the money he's owed.

Tilton's successors never denied that he spent the money. But as they delved into AAYSA's records, they concluded that he hadn't acted in the organization's best interests.

Board meeting minutes at the crucial times are sketchy at best; however, they include no indication that Tilton was ever explicitly authorized to pay for the site plan work, or even to sign the purchase agreement on the Pittsfield property, according to evidence presented in the club's case against Tilton.

So when Tilton sued to collect the debt, AAYSA filed a counterclaim. It argued that Tilton had not told the board all he knew about the project and therefore had harmed the club. AAYSA's lawyers submitted an affidavit from former interim board secretary Susan Whelan, who wrote that she'd resigned in April 2006 "because I did not believe some members of the board and staff, including Mr. Tilton, were fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities." But the board acted frequently over many months to advance the field project—and neither Whelan nor any other former board member testified that they'd have acted differently if Tilton had told them more.

Judge Brown ruled that AAYSA owed Tilton the money and agreed to consider an order requiring the group to pay his legal fees as well. Tilton says that even then, he tried to reach out to the group. "We're trying to figure out how they can pay me without impacting the operations of the club," he says. He has said he previously

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told AAYSA that if it'll pay the debt and his legal fees, he and Fawcett will return the fees as a donation.

Why didn't the club accept the offer? Bonam says the problem was that in exchange for the donation, Tilton wanted AAYSA to post a statement on its website that he'd done nothing wrong. Since the association was pinning its hopes on its counterclaim against him, the members refused. But with the club's bank account frozen till it posts bond on Tilton's judgment, it appears AAYSA will never get a chance to present that case.

Parents saved the spring season by paying coaches and other expenses out of pocket—but they can hardly be expected to do the same with the group's legal fees. Pear Sperling donated its services for a few weeks, including at the April hearing, but the firm and the board have agreed it cannot continue because of the association's dire financial state.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

AAYSA president Warren Bonam and his son Drew. He says the group lost $100,000 last year and has just $7,000 in the bank.

The board's last hope was to persuade the Michigan attorney general's charity bureau to represent them in the lawsuit. At a board meeting in March, members agreed that if the attorney general refused, the group should move to shut down.

The attorney general passed, setting the stage for another—perhaps final—membership meeting in late April. Bonam says he plans to lay out the situation and explain why the board reluctantly is giving up—money, staff, families, and volunteers are all dwindling or going elsewhere.

"My son is thoroughly disappointed that he won't be able to wear his Arsenal jersey next fall," says board member Julia Gilbert. "Every day it gets a little harder to hope" that the club can continue.

"It's been sad and disheartening to see a very good club with a lot of good players" suffer so, says Barry Scott, AAYSA's director of coaching. "Mismanagement from several years ago has caught up with the club.

"A lot of people are going elsewhere," Scott says, referring to coaches, parents, kids—and himself. He's taken a new job in the fall with a soccer league in another city, which he prefers not to name because he doesn't want to influence any children or families to follow him.

Already many parents are researching other clubs and in some cases encouraging them to establish branches in Ann Arbor. One club took out a big ad in the *Ann Arbor News*. Another has posted notes on youth soccer boards online. Others have signed up former AAYSA coaches for the new season that begins in July, and are recruiting children through them.

Bonam says the closing will leave hundreds of children to find new teams. Some are likely to travel to Canton, Saline, or Novi, while others will join new or existing organizations in Ann Arbor. Some will lose touch with friends nurtured on the fields—or, in the case of parents, on the sidelines. Others, Scott says, "may end up drifting away from youth soccer."

The source of all this trouble—the almost thirty acres of soccer fields on Platt Road—remains in limbo. Pittsfield Township took ownership last December, but "currently there is no access road into the park nor is there a parking lot," says Dan Cooperrider, the township's director of parks and recreation. "We've talked about what has to happen" to complete the work AAYSA laid out, he says, but township officials haven't figured out how much those improvements will cost. Township supervisor James Walter adds, "We also need to find the money."

While some parents still hope to see AAYSA continue as a smaller organization, others privately say they're tired of the financial problems, the rumors, and the waves of troubles that have washed over the group for years. Unless there's a last-minute miracle, it looks all but certain that AAYSA and its elite travel teams will disappear. The players now kicking soccer balls around on the airport fields are likely to be the last ever to wear the white and blue Arsenal uniform. ■

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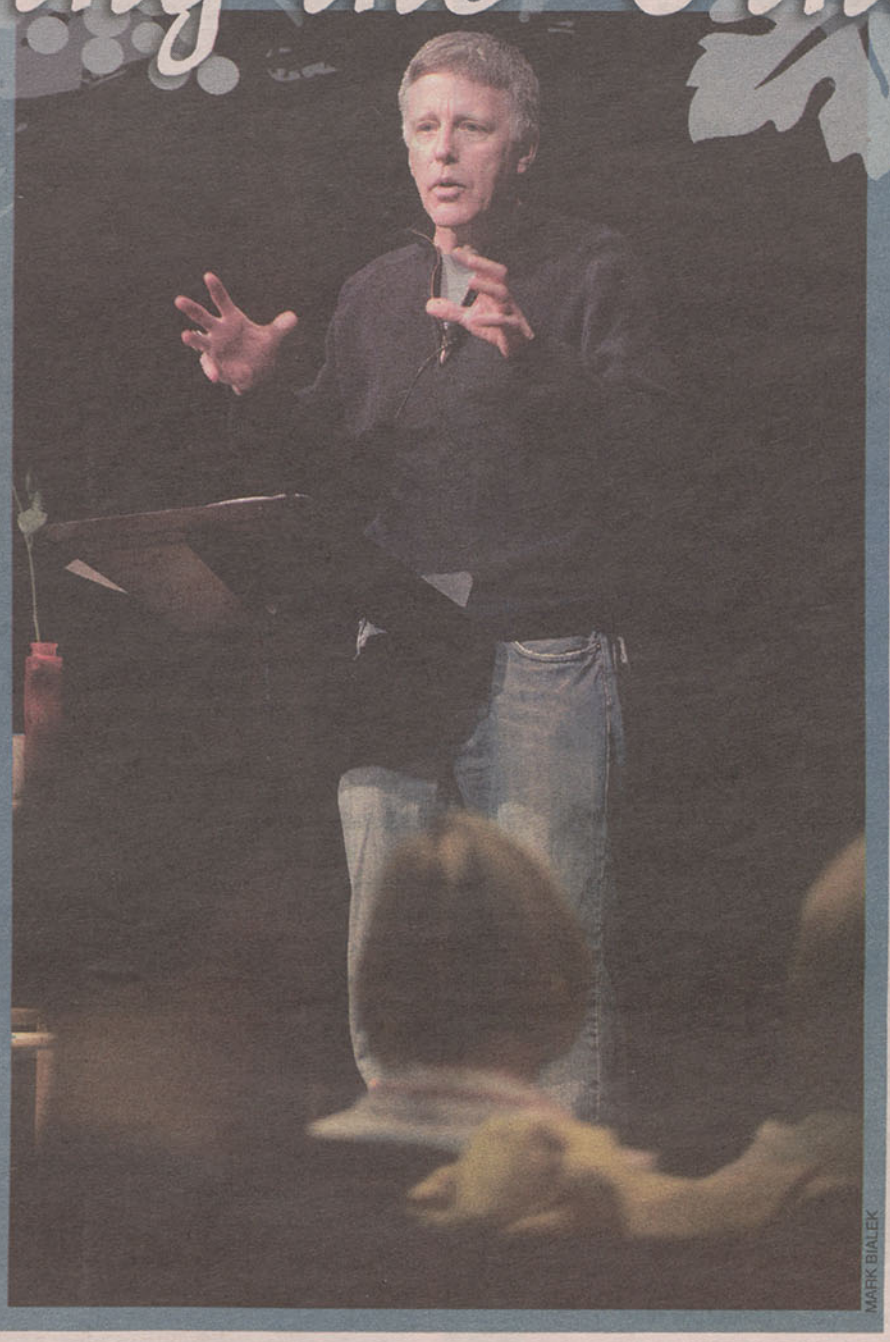
In thirty-three years, Ken Wilson has grown his congregation from a handful of souls to one of the largest in the city. Here's how he did it.

Tending the Vineyard


MARK BIALEK

Ken Wilson came to Ann Arbor in 1970 for a nursing degree—and to Jesus the year after that for salvation. When he started preaching in 1975, his congregation consisted of half a dozen people gathered in his living room.

by James Leonard

"Man oh man, just look at all those homeless people!" Frank's hair is greasy, his jacket's dirty, and his shades are impenetrable as he hurries down Liberty Street in the late March twilight. Carrying a plastic bag full of empties, he's hurrying toward Liberty Plaza, the sunken park at the corner of Division.

Despite the freezing temperature, a good fifty folks are already hanging around, talking and laughing. Most are middle-aged white men, with a sprinkling of blacks, women, and younger people. Many are smoking, but none seem to be drinking. All are dressed in layers, and more often than not, the men have a solid six months' growth of beard.

As the bells in Burton Tower strike seven, a dozen or so warmly dressed folks walk into the park carrying folding tables, boxes of pizza, bags of groceries, and jugs of coffee. They set everything up near Liberty. Then a striking blond woman steps up on a table and calls out for everyone to gather round, say grace, and have supper.

The woman is Colette Szabo, and she's coleader of the homeless ministry at Vineyard Church. Founded in 1975 in the living room of Ken and Nancy Wilson's home on Walnut Street, it's now one of the city's largest churches (see box, p. 39). Six hundred people attend one of the two Sunday services every week in the former Ann Arbor Civic Theatre building on Platt. Eight hundred more drop by once or twice a month.

Szabo moved here from Flint two years ago and found Vineyard online. "I went one Sunday—and right away it felt like family," she recalls. Shortly after she joined, Wilson, the church's senior pastor, told the congregation he'd had a vision of ministering to the homeless. "He asked if anybody was interested," remembers Szabo. "It tugged at my heart. It just seemed like something God wanted me to do.

"We started out with four or five of us," she continues. "Now there's thirty people involved, with ten to fifteen showing up every week. And it's not just the Vineyard anymore. Now there's also the NorthRidge Church from off [M-14] in Plymouth, plus a group of students from the U of M. And we've never missed a Friday. Even in that horrible blizzard last Friday, we were here."

Suddenly there's the sound of bottles clattering to the pavement and voices raised in anger. Frank has bumped into Tony, a skinny guy with a bum leg, and spilled his bag of bottles. Szabo and a guy from Vineyard are on it instantly, separating the men, calming them, helping Frank pick up.

A couple minutes later the police arrive. With back slaps and high fives all round, it's clear the cops know everybody here. After a bit they take Frank and Tony aside, separate them, and talk things over. When the cops leave ten minutes later, they all smile and shake hands.

"Hey," a tall guy with a big beard cries out, "has everybody had their first share of pizza? 'Cause there's more here if anybody wants it."

After an hour the pizza's gone, the sun has set, and it's time to go. Szabo climbs back onto the table and calls everybody over for a group hug and a closing prayer. Most folks circle up. Arms wrapped around each other's waists, they pray together before heading out into the chilly evening.

Frank doesn't join the hug this week. But, as Szabo says, "there's always next week."

The following Sunday, Mike Brooks opens the eleven o'clock service with a fat chord on his hollow-body Gretsch guitar. The drums kick in, followed by the second guitar, bass, and keyboards. Brooks, Vineyard's London-born "worship pastor," begins to sing "How Great You Are." The arrangement could've come straight out of the Rolling Stones' songbook—but the lyrics are a raw-throated, blues-based love song to Jesus.

The SRO congregation—400 casually dressed folks of mixed ages and ethnicities—sings fervently along. Most worshippers hold hands; some, eyes closed and faces glowing, raise their arms palms upward to be embraced by God's love.

After Brooks's set ends, associate pastor Don Bromley announces upcoming classes: a sixteen-week study of the Gospel according to Mark, an eight-week marriage course, and the ongoing "Seek: Explore Faith" introductory series. Then he turns the platform over to Ken Wilson.

Dressed in a blue short-sleeved shirt, a pair of faded jeans, and sandals with socks, Wilson takes as his starting point 1 Corinthians 13, St. Paul's declaration of the primacy of love. Relaxed at first as he fools around with his clip-on microphone, the youthful-looking senior pastor talks eloquently about love and pride. Slowly but surely he builds to a passionate and full-throated climax. "Laws and the writings of the prophets can elucidate love," he declares. "But if what you want is love, and if what you need is love, then the only thing that will *do* is, as Grace Slick said, to find *somebody to love!* Jesus is our center, and love is what makes his heart beat—so love is our aim." The audience nods along, and people shout out "Amen" when he makes a particularly telling point.

After the sermon comes Communion—which almost everybody takes—while a half dozen folks gather in the prayer station off to one side of the hall to talk with the members of the prayer team. Some are crying, some hold hands, and some just look deeply relieved to have somebody to talk with.

Halfway through Communion, the musicians begin a long, slow blues, "Jesus—

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Tending the Vineyard

What a Beautiful Name." After Communion they close out the service with another couple tunes while the congregation sings fervently along. And then it's over—an hour and a half of the consolations of community wrapped in red-hot music and sealed with the promise of eternity.

With his bright blue eyes, blond-going-gray hair, and unfailing goofy laugh, Wilson radiates faith in himself, his church, and his God. Yet it was not always so. "I went through a phase when I was not a Christian," Wilson confesses back in his slightly unkempt office near the church's entry. He grew up Episcopalian in Detroit in the 1960s and says that, like most of his contemporaries, he lost his faith as a teenager. He came to Ann Arbor in 1970 for a nursing degree—and to Jesus the year after that for salvation.

"Nancy, my then-girlfriend-now-wife-of-thirty-seven-years, became pregnant, and I became a father," admits the fifty-six-year-old pastor. "I like to describe it as a wake-up call from a power greater than myself." While working as a nurse in pediatric rehabilitation and community mental health, Wilson started reading the Gospels and talking to anybody and everybody about Jesus. Only later, he says, did he find out that he was part of a phenomenon called the Jesus movement. "At the time," Wilson says, "I didn't know what the Jesus movement was. I just knew I loved Jesus."

Four years after he came to Jesus, Wilson began preaching in earnest: "We initially held services in our living room. We started with five or six people, and it just grew." At first the small congregation was unaffiliated with any other church. "I was a Jesus freak," he says. "We were totally nonaligned, totally independent. We went through many names—'The Emmaus Fellowship' was probably the one we used the longest."

The connection to the Vineyard churches came in the early 1980s, when Wilson met California pastor John Wimber. "He was sort of a Santa Claus figure with an open face and a big beard," recalls Wilson. "I really liked that he was focused on the Jesus of the Gospels and on serving the poor. It reminded me of my own early days in the Jesus movement."

Wimber himself had played a central role in the Jesus movement when he invited hippie evangelist Lonnie Frisbee to preach at a church in Long Beach. Shocked when both children and church elders swooned at what Frisbee described as the touch of the Holy Spirit, Wimber's boss ordered Frisbee removed. Wimber and most of the congregation left with him and joined a nearby church called the Vineyard Christian Fellowship.

With Frisbee and Wimber as preachers, membership at the Vineyard soared into the thousands, and soon the Evangelical duo were getting invitations to speak across the country and around the world. But the partnership didn't survive the revelation that Frisbee, though married, was an active homosexual. Confronted, Frisbee left the Vineyard. He died of AIDS in 1993.

> Raised as an Episcopalian in Detroit, "I went through a phase when I was not a Christian," admits the fifty-six-year-old pastor. That changed when "Nancy, my then-girlfriend-now-wife-of-thirty-seven-years, became pregnant, and I became a father. I like to describe it as a wake-up call from a power greater than myself."

The gifts of the Spirit did not stop with Frisbee's departure, however. Wimber continued to preach the gospel of signs and wonders—the signs of the presence of God and the wonders of the gifts of the Spirit—and the Vineyard continued to flourish. Wilson says that when his Ann Arbor congregation affiliated with the Vineyard in 1984, "it felt like coming home theologically." Like the other churches in the 100,000-member fellowship, the local congregation remains essentially autonomous.

By the time they joined the Vineyard group, Wilson says, "we had thirty–forty people and were renting Weber's. We doubled that and rented Cleary College. Then we doubled that again, bought the Milan Free Methodist Church, and moved to Milan." That was in 1990, and the congregation numbered 150. By the time they came back to Ann Arbor in 2001, 800 people were showing up.

The congregation bought the onetime roller rink on Platt Road from the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. The Civic had carved a spacious, comfortable auditorium out of the cavernous building, and with its stage lighting and stadium-style seating, the central hall still functions as a kind of sacred theater at weekly services. What were once dressing rooms are now meeting rooms and classrooms, and a glorious, full-size reproduction of Rembrandt's *Return of the Prodigal Son* now hangs in the lobby, welcoming all who enter.

"We want our church culture to be part of Ann Arbor culture," explains Wilson. "We want it to be politically liberal and left leaning—like most of Ann Arbor and

MARK BIALEK

MARK BIALEK

Volunteers Sue Well and Mary Ann Trainor hand out pizza in Liberty Plaza . Of the 600 people who attend services at the Vineyard every week, 325 take part in an outreach ministry to, in Wilson's words, "bear witness to Jesus through acts of social justice and compassion."

like most of our congregation." He credits its growth mostly to "friends introducing friends—there's a lot of word of mouth." New members, he says, are likely to be "between eighteen and thirty-four, and about half have no previous church experience—though we do get all kinds of people joining us."

One of those new members is veteran Detroit music writer Thom Jurek. Jurek says he was raised "a standard Polish Catholic" in Detroit in the 1960s and got a standard Catholic education from first through tenth grades. When his family moved to the suburbs in the 1970s, he left his old school, neighborhood, and faith behind and spent big chunks of the next thirty years as an alcoholic.

Jurek got sober for good in the late 1990s. "I've been through AA and all that 'higher power' shit," he says, "and let's just say there were parts of it that worked for me and parts of it that didn't." Looking to center his life, he met Gehlek Rimpoche of Jewel Heart and studied Buddhism for seven years. Then he read *The Wisdom of the Desert* by the Trappist monk Thomas Merton—and to his surprise, he concluded that "there was not a big difference between Merton and the Buddha." He read the Gospels and incorporated Jesus into his daily meditations.

Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* was in theaters at the time, and Jurek took his teenage daughter and a friend to see it. He had no intention of seeing it himself, but "this huge, impeccably dressed African American man in a white suit stopped me and asked me if I was going to see the movie. I said no, but he gave me a free ticket in case I changed my mind.

"I decided to go—and it was the most

A musician's journey

"I was at art college," recalls goateed guitarist Mike Brooks in a heavy London accent, "when I met a bloke who told me about Jesus. And I thought he was completely out of it. You see, I come from a long line of atheists, and Jesus was the last thing I thought about. But it was near the end of the cold war and things were looking a bit dicey, so I thought I'd just give it a try by reading the Bible. The first book I read was Revelation, and in the reading of it, I met the real Jesus—the apocalyptic, poetic Jesus. And that, as they say, was that."

The London housing market priced Brooks and his family out of the city of his birth, so they settled in Bournemouth, a resort town on England's southern coast. A full-time musician and a dedicated blues guitarist, Brooks happened to meet the pastor of the Bournemouth Vineyard Christian Fellowship at a gig. "He was into the blues as well, and he asked me about how a band would sound in his church. And that's how I became a worship pastor—and how I met Ken Wilson.

"Ken was over for a pastors' conference about six or seven years ago," continues Brooks, "and there was an instant connection. He asked me if I'd like to come over and run the band at his church. And of course I said yes. How could I say no? I love America—always have done—because blues, along with jazz, is America's great art form."

As Vineyard's worship pastor, Brooks, forty-six, leads a five-piece blues-rock band at both weekly services. "My job is to draw out of them the best music they can make, and not with a big stick," he says of his musicians. "What I try to do is to encourage them, to help them free up the chains that bind them, and let them feel the music in their souls.

"The songs themselves come from a variety of backgrounds," says Brooks. "There's great new material and great old material as well, like 'Jesus on the Mainline' from Ry Cooder's *Paradise and Lunch*—the greatest album of all time, in my personal opinion. Some people might object to the mix, I suppose, though no one here does.

"Besides, I'd like somebody to tell me why 'Black Dog' from Led Zeppelin isn't a spiritual song. It always sends me into a place where I feel the spirit."

—J.L.

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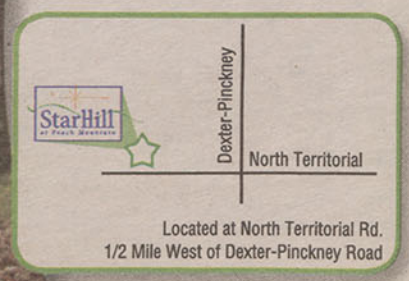

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Tending the Vineyard

vile and violent movie I'd ever seen. When I got home, I looked all over the Internet for one sane thing about the movie, and I found an open letter to Evangelicals on *The Passion of the Christ* by Ken Wilson from the Vineyard Church right here in Ann Arbor.

"See, Evangelicals were using the film as a cause for zealotry, as an element in the culture war. And Ken's approach was far more gentle and far more sane: that this was a tremendous opportunity for Evangelicals to speak, one to the other, with the followers of Judaism—and that they totally blew it."

His interest piqued, Jurek attended a service at Vineyard next week. "The sermon was on the third step of the AA program," he recalls. "I thought, 'Great, I've been all through that—I'll know right away if he's full of shit.' And he got everything right—history, facts, interpretation, everything. He even got the most important thing right—the thing about compassion and surrender."

He made an appointment to talk with Wilson. "When we met, I said to him, 'Before we go any further, I have one question: Are people from other religions going to hell?' His response was simple and direct: 'Do I look like a judge to you?' That, as far as I was concerned, was the right answer."

For the next two years Jurek attended weekly services and met with Wilson. "I didn't believe everything then, and I don't believe everything now," he says. "But that's okay. Blind faith is a bad thing." He decided, however, that commitment was a good thing, and two years ago, the former Catholic, alcoholic, and Buddhist was baptized into Vineyard.

"I would not describe myself as a typical churchgoing person, nor an Evangelical in any manner, shape, or form," Jurek says, "and they make room for people like me."

Vineyard's rapid growth and its blend of large-scale worship services with small study and service groups fit the template of an Evangelical "megachurch." Asked whether he'd use the term to describe his congregation, though, Wilson looks a little embarrassed: "We're not that big, are we?"

Vineyard's rapid growth and its blend of large-scale worship services with small study and service groups fit the template of an Evangelical "megachurch." Asked whether he'd use the term to describe his congregation, though, Wilson looks a little embarrassed. "No, not really," he answers. "We're not that big, are we?" (Not yet—the threshold for a megachurch is usually considered to be 2,000 members.)

But like other Evangelical churches, Vineyard promises what Wilson describes as "an encounter with God" as a regular part of services. As he explains it, though, Vineyard's version is much more personal than the ecstatic public possession of Lonnie Frisbee's day. "If people have something they'd like to pray for, they come up to the prayer stations during Communion and go aside with a member of the prayer team," he says. "There's no miracle cures, and it's not a big show in context. But it is very comforting."

As for the practice of speaking in tongues, "We affirm it as one of the gifts of the Spirit," says Wilson. "However, we also believe that it's more devotional, more inward than outward." He says he himself has "communed with God—I've had that mystical relationship to that reality." But, he chuckles, "you can't talk about it. And when you think about it, silence and tongues express the same reality."

While Wilson says "the Bible is God's favorite way of telling stories about humanity," Vineyard members aren't asked to choose between Genesis and Darwin. Biblical stories "are true," he says, "but they may not be literally true."

Even the core Christian promise, that suffering in the present will be followed by eternal life in heaven, is refocused. "For us," says Wilson, "heaven is now, because God's love is the eternal now and can be experienced now. God is love, and when you've experienced God's love, that is consoling. Even in the face of the tragedies of life, that is consoling."

The congregations seems far more concerned with earthly life than with the afterlife. Of the 600 folks who come every Sunday, 325 are involved with one or more of the church's twenty different ministries—groups that, as Wilson puts it, "bear witness to Jesus through acts of social justice and compassion."

Besides the homeless ministry, he says, "we've got a prison ministry, and we've got a ministry that does student mentoring in Detroit. But our coolest ministry is our single moms ministry—and I'd say that even if the woman who ran it wasn't my wife."

Nancy and Ken Wilson met in 1970, when they were both eighteen and fresh out of high school. A bright, cheerful woman who laughs as often as she speaks, Nancy says the ministry started in late 1997, shortly after John Wimber died. "Ken was praying one morning, asking God what we could do to honor John's memory, and he had the impression that we should do something for single moms." (Wimber had been raised by a single mother.) "We shared ideas with church, they were enthusiastic, and within a month we started the Single Moms Ministry."

Why single moms? "They're the widows and orphans of our day," she answers. "Single moms and their kids are marginalized, rejected, and made to feel like less than a real family. I felt strongly then, and I feel strongly now, that the church really needed to create a breathing space for single moms and their kids, a space where they're loved and made to feel welcomed.

"At the time we had only eight single moms in the church, so we invited them over to share dinner, talk, and pray. And relationships were formed, and love grew. These days, once a month from September through May, we have dinner for about sixty families with a team of about forty people to serve them dinner, provide child care, and clean up. Maybe half the families come from the church and half from the wider community.

"Every third Tuesday at six-thirty, we welcome the women into the dining room, where we have real tablecloths, real dishes, beautiful candles, and a gourmet dinner ready for them. After dinner they can try one of three options: prayer for anyone who has a need for prayer, or classes about parenting or meal preparation or dating or spirituality or how to reduce your stress. At the end we hand out the pink bags, bags filled with anything they need—toothbrushes, diapers, feminine products, deodorant, whatever—and they're out by eight-thirty. After all, Tuesday is a work night and a school night!"

Nancy and Ken Wilson themselves have five children—and, by now, five grandchildren. Grace, their youngest, still lives at home. Maja, Amy, and Judy are scattered from Ludington to New York City. And their eldest, Jesse—the child whose imminent arrival brought his father to God in 1971—is now a pastor himself. Five years ago, after serving as Vineyard's youth pastor, he led 200 members back to the Milan church to plant a new congregation there. ■

Ann Arbor's Protestant Top Ten

In the most recent census, about 63,000 Ann Arborites gave a religious affiliation. The count included 5,300 Jews, 1,400 Buddhists, 1,300 Hindus, 500 Muslims, 3,500 assorted other believers, and 51,000 Christians.

One-third of the Christians are Catholic or Orthodox, with the rest divided among nearly 100 Protestant congregations. This list of the Protestant Top Ten is based on information in the *Ann Arbor Observer City Guide*.

Congregation	Members	Founded
First Presbyterian	2,100	1826
St. Luke Lutheran	1,900	1958
Zion Lutheran	1,800	1833
First United Methodist	1,300	1827
St. Paul Lutheran	1,354	1908
First Congregational	1,100	1847
St. Andrew's Episcopal	1,100	1827
Bethlehem UCC	800	1833
Trinity Lutheran	800	1893
Vineyard	750	1995

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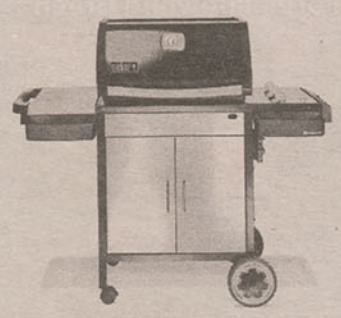

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Genesis E310 $649
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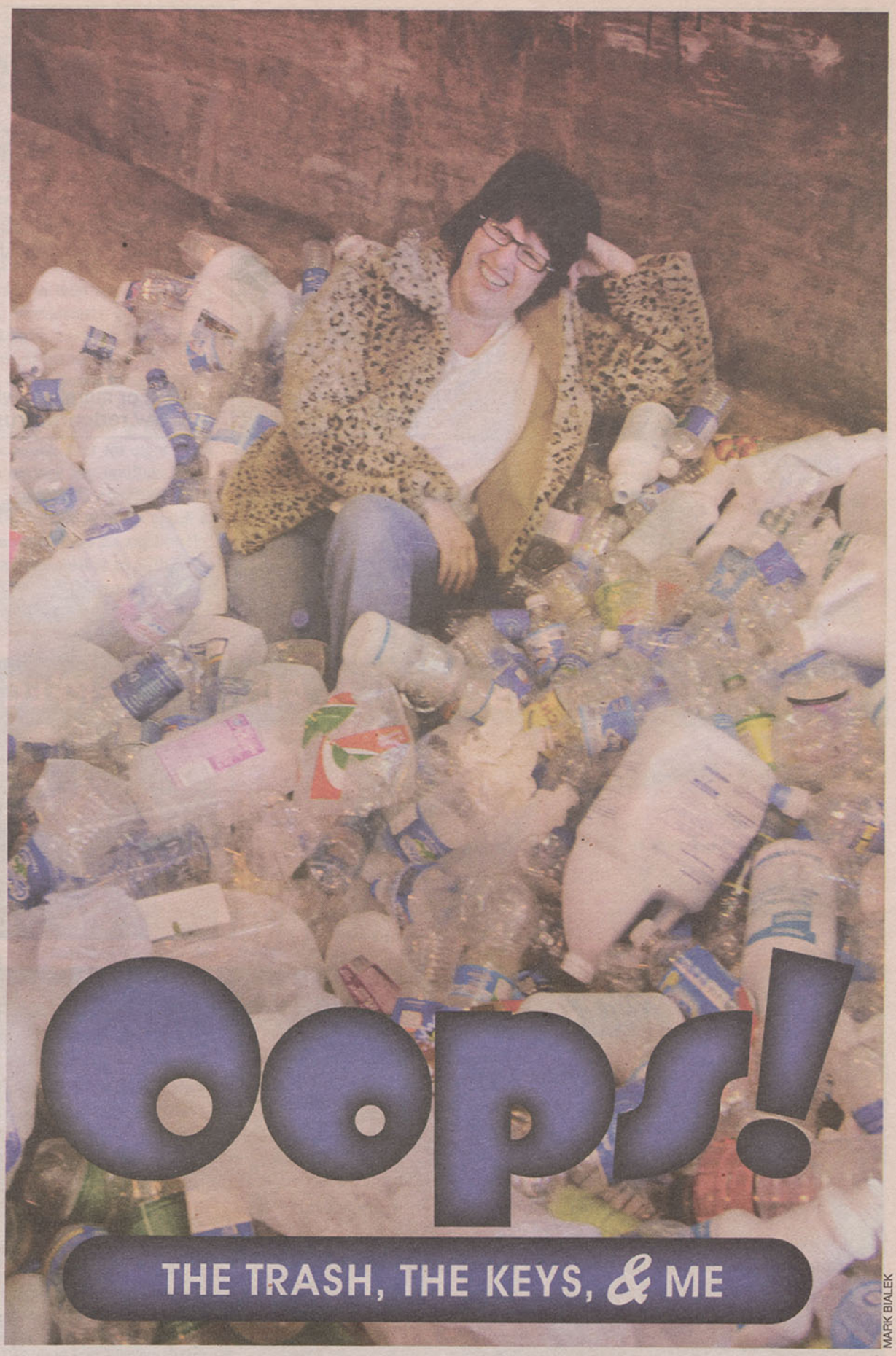

MARK BIALEK

No one asks why a woman in a fake-leopard-skin coat is digging through the trash.

BY ANITA LEBLANC

The lullaby of a morning rainstorm is usually enough excuse for me to sleep in—a benefit of the freelance writing lifestyle—but today I have errands to run and plans to visit my sister. I've made a glorious penne dish to take to her family. I down my coffee and make my list for the day. Fabulous organization. Fantastic intentions. I trudge out with my recycling and load it into the car.

The bank, the library—I'm moving at a good speed. I'll visit Laura, have lunch with her, and maybe give her a massage. But since it's only 11 a.m., I decide I have time to first do a quick recycle run.

Recycle Ann Arbor's drop-off station at Platt and Ellsworth combines the ambience of a large construction site with the feel of the postapocalyptic desert where Mel Gibson roams in *Mad Max*. Dump trucks and bulldozers cruise the muddy landscape. I drive past the small gatehouse into a giant pole barn.

Broken humidifiers, air conditioners, and other appliances stand sentry at the left of the entrance. There's a fee to dispose of those (see recycleannarbor.org), but household recyclables like the ones I'm carrying are accepted for free, so I join the cars, trucks, and vans pulled up in parallel lines inside. An occasional errant packing peanut skitters playfully on the concrete floor amid stacks of broken-down boxes. There's a mechanical baler just for the peanuts and foam egg cartons, and another one for corrugated cardboard. To the rear of the facility, a box overflows with old tapes, DVDs, floppy disks, and CDs. (I've been known to longingly look to see what great treasures have been abandoned there, but other than a VHS tape of *Teenage Devil Dolls,* it's been slim pickings. Besides, scavenging here is against the law.) There are boxes and boxes of plastic grocery bags back there as well. On the sides of six large-appliance-size boxes cut in two, paper signs invite disposal of newspapers, magazines, office paper, and junk mail.

Empty cat litter containers and buckets of batteries wait for recycling between two massive green Dumpsters, the kind traditionally used on construction sites: one for mixed paper and grayboard, the other for tin cans, glass bottles and jars, milk jugs, and broken dishes. (The greedy girl in me notes that a tidy sum could be made from all the returnable cans and bottles tossed by lazy recyclers—but the good girl in me knows it's wrong, and the smart girl duly notes the security camera above them.)

I park my car and, clutching my keys, dump a bag of newspapers into the appropriate cardboard box. Then I ascend the three steps to the mixed-paper Dumpster, where I unload my grayboard. I cordially nod at fellow recyclers as I head to my car to retrieve two bags of tin cans, plastic salad dressing containers, and glass bottles. I climb the stairs and dump the trash from one bag. I survey the massive contents of the half-full Dumpster as I prepare to deposit the second and think, as I often have before, "Boy, wouldn't it be a pisser if you lost your keys in one of these babies?"

Just then, the grasp of my right hand releases and I hear the clink of my keys as they fall into the bin.

I think I see the glimmer of my keys in a tin can, or is it a glass jar? I lean over and try to reach into the Dumpster, but my arms are too short. So I take another step that will later lend itself to more if-only-I-hadn't-done-that thinking: I hoist myself into the Dumpster. As I land, I create waves of trash that bury what I thought had been my keys even deeper.

I start to paddle frantically through the empty tomato cans and drained liquor bottles. The tide of trash does not turn but continues to resist me. I yell for help. The guy at the balers taciturnly ignores me. An older gentleman climbing the stairs with his containers stops and peers down at me. "What happened?" he asks.

"I dropped my keys in here!" I wail. He looks at me with pity and acknowledges in a low tone, "Ain't that a bitch?" He asks where I was when I'd dropped them and helpfully tries to point out the best spots to look—to no avail. "Please," I plead, "see if you can find someone to help me."

He returns with Mr. Rude from the balers, who brings along a broken rake. They both jump in alongside me. Mr. R. begins raking through the trash without a word, while the kind stranger and I dig with our bare hands. Each glint that looks like a key cruelly turns out to be a piece of broken glass or mirror. Mr. R. wordlessly leaves after fifteen minutes and climbs on a bulldozer. I swear under my breath. As we continue digging, folks continue to dump bottles and cans around us, never pausing to ask why a woman in a fake-leopard-skin coat and a well-dressed man are digging through the trash. I hop out long enough to call my sister to let her know I won't make it for lunch.

I climb back in with my new friend. His wife stands at the top of the stairs and helpfully asks other recyclers to hold off from heaping more pieces onto the diabolical

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Oops!

THE TRASH, THE KEYS, & ME

continued

puzzle. Most cluck sympathetically, while others just drop their bags next to the Dumpster and drive off.

The magnitude of the pile is amazing. Some joker threw in a rubber bath mat. There are two lanterns and some towel bars, as well as plastic containers that should never have been put here. I curse the extraneous, misplaced trash, and then acknowledge the many times I too have left stuff like that, despite knowing that it didn't belong. I hadn't liked the guilt of sending something to a landfill, and I realize this is probably why others did likewise. It's obvious now that we only made more work for the workers at the nearby Materials Recovery Facility—what can't be recycled must be sorted out there and ultimately ends up at a landfill.

After nearly an hour, I tell my Good Samaritan and his beautiful wife to leave (I never even get their names—panic has obliterated my manners). They do, and Mr. R. continues to avoid me. I clamber out and head toward the gatehouse to look for help.

The morning rain has made a paste out of the road, and my new shoes sink into the muck. But I make it, and inside, I see a man with a shaved head and bushy goatee holding a toddler on his hip. The kid points at me, and I then do the thing I hate most when I'm in the situation I hate most—namely, feeling helpless in the face of adversity. I burst into tears.

The man's name is Steve. He turns out to be the manager of the drop-off station, as well as the father of the toddler, Laurence. He steps out and asks me what's wrong. His kindness turns my tears into a veritable Niagara. Snuffling and sobbing, I tell the tale of my keys and the downright cussed meanness of Mr. R. Steve turns Laurence over to Carol, a middle-aged beauty with wrinkles from the sun and from the smiles she clearly has frequently bestowed on others.

Steve leads me back into the pole barn, descends into the Dumpster, and tells me not to worry. Carol arrives with Laurence on her hip, and the three of us cheer Steve on. He promptly gets a small cut on his hand from some broken glass. Mr. R. stays clear of us, but two more staffers, Dennis and Calvin, jump in and begin to look. I help a woman unload a computer from her van.

I learn that it's Steve's day off and that he and Laurence had just stopped by. I am painfully embarrassed for creating the hubbub and having a meltdown. I try to focus my gratitude on the three people in the Dumpster, who reassure me that they are going to help me and that I need do nothing in return for them. Who knew angels wore yellow slickers and drove dump trucks?

It's now after one o'clock. I call my friend Susan, who has a key to my place. She assures me she's glad to help but doesn't know where she put the key. She dutifully goes to my house with a multitude of keys she's gleaned from her kitchen drawers. She apologizes when she calls me back to report that none of them fits my lock. I know she's truly chagrined, but I'm really, really sorry I can't get in my place to get my spare set of car keys.

Bad things happen to good people, right? I'm beginning to realize that all the gratitude in the world, supplemented by bargaining with my version of the Cosmic Muffin, isn't going to make my keys levitate to the top of the Dumpster.

I huddle in the shack with Carol while Steve leaves with Laurence to run an errand. Dennis joins us while Calvin continues to forage. We're at an impasse. It's been three hours of searching and it's time for the big guns. Dennis recommends they stop traffic, pull the Dumpster out of the facility, put an empty one in its place, take the other one up the hill, and go through the trash piece by piece, checking each can and bottle. Don, another staffer, shows up and grins as he attaches a magnet to a pole—bait for key fishing in a sea of trash.

I watch the Dumpster exchange while Carol affably directs recyclers to the correct areas and takes payments for compostables, appliances, and electronics. She chats in German with a U-M student preparing to return to Switzerland. Farmers stop by looking for egg cartons. I call my pal Michelle in Royal Oak, who also has a key to my house. The station closes at 5, and her job in Royal Oak ends at 4; she might be able to bring my key to me in time. She doesn't answer the phone.

I ask Carol how many people have lost keys over the ten years she and Steve have been there. She tells me four; most people lose cell phones and eyeglasses. She says eyeglasses are the most difficult to find. I ask if the other keys were found. She tells me they were. I bet none of the other searches has taken so much time or effort. She just smiles and nods.

We watch trash flying up and out of the Dumpster on the hill. Just as the voice inside me says my keys will not be found, Dennis returns to confirm my suspicions. I take the pasta I had planned to bring to my sister and fill a container for Carol to take home for dinner with her husband. Calvin happily accepts a container, too, but Dennis tells me he's on a diet. My small gesture makes me feel a tiny bit better.

Steve comes back with Laurence. I tell him I'm going to call a locksmith to open the door to my condo. When he offers to drive me home, my tears well up again. I want to give him my checkbook, my credit card, the firstborn child I'll never have. It's his day off, he's got his three-year-old with him, and he's spent it helping a dizzy dame who dropped her keys in a Dumpster and sobbed like a hyena. I accept his generous offer with many thanks. Steve even agrees to wait in the parking lot while I attend to the door with the locksmith, who's waiting outside my building.

"Are you here to help me or make all my problems permanently go away?" I joke. The locksmith answers with a noncommittal wave of his hammer. We climb the stairs, and he tries various keys. None of them works. Downstairs, a postal employee is fixing the keyholes in the mailboxes. The locksmith says for eight extra bucks he can replace my mailbox lock, too, but as he continues to wrestle with the one on my door, the timing of his upsell is off. Twenty minutes later he says uncle, and a $60 charge escalates to $70 as he drills out the lock and replaces it with a new one. It's worth it to get into my home, find my spare keys, write the locksmith a check, and return to Steve's car. It's now 4:30 p.m.

I try to focus my gratitude on the three people in the Dumpster, who reassure me that they are going to help me and that I need do nothing in return for them. Who knew angels wore yellow slickers and drove dump trucks?

Laurence looks at me from his car seat in the back and shouts, "No!" He's had enough of me. He wants to go home and he doesn't want anything more to do with the troublesome lady in the leopard-skin coat. He starts to howl for a binky that isn't there. I know just how he feels. Steve delivers me to the drop-off station, where I retrieve my car and head home. My five-minute recycling run has taken six hours.

I'm sure my keys are now in the same heaven where lost socks go after a tumble in the dryer, never to be found in this earthly plane.

I plan to continue my recycling. However, from now on, I'll have some safeguards in place.

Carol recommends a coiled, phone-cord-like bracelet, but I know that I'd never use it. Sharon, who owns an organizing business, tells me to clip my keys to my purse—another tactic I know I wouldn't employ. However, I recently saw a woman with a large stuffed hamster attached to her key chain. I'm thinking a large rodent would make it a lot easier to find my keys the next time they're lost in a Dumpster—but then again, isn't that where their kind hang out?

I've since sent a copy of the locksmith's invoice to my insurance company for reimbursement, had several new keys made, and bought a large, braceletlike gold key ring. I'm still thinking about the stuffed hamster. ■

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COMEBACK KID

THE RISE, FALL, AND RETURN OF FRANK ALLISON

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

by Chris Berggren

Frank Allison tapes the ends of the film together and loads the second reel off a spool and onto a gigantic silver spindle beside the projector.

His hands fidgeting and his facial expressions fluctuating constantly, Allison is a ball of energy, even in the cramped projection room of the Clinton Theater. In the late 1980s and early to middle 1990s, many thought that his band, Frank Allison and the Odd Sox, was a can't-miss national act. He still wears his hair long—half hanging below his shoulders with the other half tied in a bun against the back of his scalp—and still possesses all the floppy scarecrow mannerisms that made him a beloved stage presence and cult figure at many a Midwest concert venue. But he hasn't sung onstage since 1996.

This week's movie is *Cloverfield*. Allison and his wife, Karie, own and operate the historic theater in Clinton, a village of 2,300 just south of the Washtenaw County line. Allison doesn't expect *Cloverfield* to be a big moneymaker. At $3 a head, he says they do their best business with kids' movies.

"*Snow Dogs* was a good one," says Allison. "Any movie in which animals talk tends to do well for us."

Six years ago, when the Allisons purchased the theater, Frank was in the middle of a seven-year stretch in which he didn't even pick up an instrument. What was the point, really? He couldn't sing anymore. He'd lost his once-promising singing voice to spasmodic dysphonia, which the National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association describes as "a neurological voice disorder that involves involuntary 'spasms' of the vocal cords causing interruptions of speech and affecting the voice quality." Most cases involve only speech and the afflicted person can usually continue to sing, but for Allison the symptoms were just the opposite.

"Until recently I didn't have a good way of explaining it," Allison says. "But you know when you get really choked up during a movie and you can't . . ." He opens his mouth and moves his hand to indicate that the words want to come out but cannot. "That is what happens to me."

Then, three years ago, Allison's daughter, Olive, expressed an interest in learning to play music. He bought a ukulele, figuring the small, four-stringed instrument would be ideal for a seven-year-old.

Olive quickly lost interest in the ukulele, but Allison didn't. He began strumming a new song each day. They were therapeutic creations, played only for his family. Then slowly he began adding vocals to the mix. Instead of singing the way he used to, he was mixing some words with humming—basically adding a vocal instrument on top of his strumming.

That was three years ago. This April, Frank Allison released *Log Rhythms of Love*, his first album since *Workman's Meal*, which was recorded in 1993 and released in 1997. He is already making quick work of another, *The World Is out the Window*, due out in late spring.

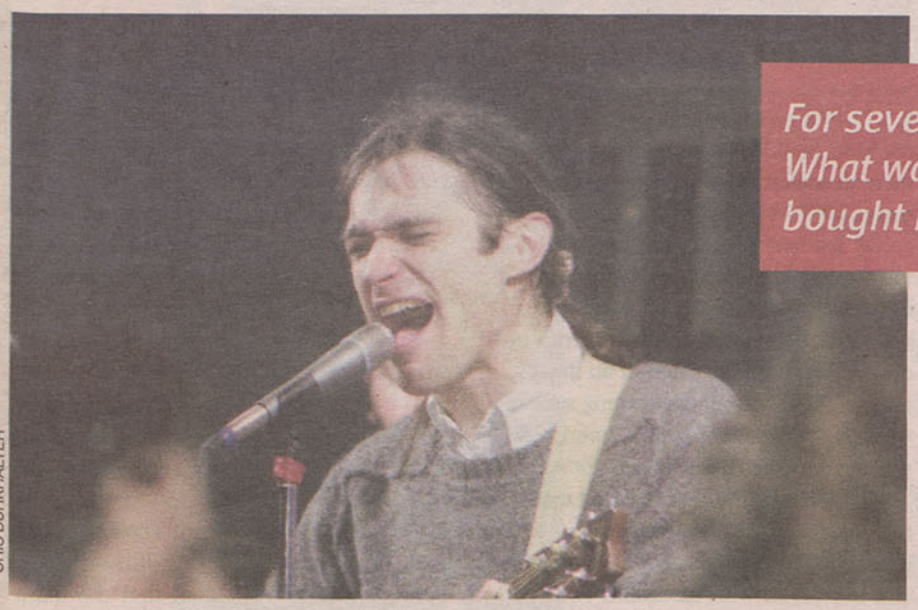
Allison says he learned to sing again by forgetting the past and starting from scratch. "I discovered that I can still play," he says, "and if I don't enunciate words, I don't tend to spasm and I can scat, mumble, whatever. It just comes out, and I can do that." But he admits he's not yet where he wants to be. He wants to perform live shows again.

"I miss it, sorely," he says. "And I hope I can work my way back to it."

When Allison was four years old in Sterling Heights—he's forty-seven now—his grandmother taught him to play a plastic air organ, the kind with chord buttons and colored and numbered keys. She also bought him records, including the Monkees and the early Beatles ("As soon as *Rubber Soul* came out and they were looking kind of scary on the cover, I couldn't get it," he says).

Soon thereafter Allison's family moved to the country, near Manchester, and AM radio became his main musical influence. While most of his friends were listening to cool FM stations like WRIF, Frank was secretly absorbing the pop and R&B music played by Windsor AM powerhouse CKLW.

"That, in a way, has to be as big an influence as anything, because from the age of seven till fourteen, that was what I listened to," Allison says. "They played good R&B, like 'Groove Me,' and things like



CRIS BURKHALTER

Frank Allison and his band, the Odd Sox, seemed poised to go national until he lost his singing voice. At a show on Mackinac Island, he hit a high note and felt a distinctive "twang" in his voice.

For seven years, Allison didn't even pick up an instrument. What was the point, really? Then, three years ago, he bought his daughter, Olive, a ukulele.

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[1] Rallan D, Kilmer S. Ablative Treatment of Photoaging. *Dermatologic Therapy* 18:227-241, 2005.

COMEBACK KID

continued

Desmond Dekker. 'The Israelites' was a big hit. There was all sorts of bad music on CKLW as well, but I kind of had a love for that too, really."

Eventually, when he was old enough to work at his dad's pet store in Ann Arbor, he reacquainted himself with vinyl, starting with the scary Beatles. He also started to play guitar, tuning the instrument to some crazy key and searching for chords that he liked.

When Allison was about sixteen, he started to write and record songs. He had a cheap tape recorder and discovered that he could make a demo on that, play it on the family stereo, and perform along with it, recording the new layer on another tape.

"I could do two, maybe three, loops before it would get so jumbly that it would have too much feedback," he says. "So I had a lot of recordings from [age] sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen like that. Then I bought a mixer, so I could bounce back and forth between two machines. And then I discovered they made a four-track machine." A lot of songs from these early recordings later became Odd Sox songs, including "Girl down the Street," a demo of which is on Allison's website, frankallisonmusic.com.

By the early 1980s Allison was getting encouragement to form a band, even though he'd never played with other musicians. "My friend Steve had a picture of Paul McCartney wearing a T-shirt that said 'The Hot Sox' on it," Allison remembers. "And he just thought, 'That's a really good name,' and he suggested that my band be the Hot Sox."

The name morphed out of that idea, and the musicians soon followed. A rival songwriter of Allison's had driven to L.A. with his band, the Out Crowd, to "make it." They didn't, and as the band members trickled back to Michigan, Allison was there to snatch them up. They released one forty-five-RPM vinyl disk in 1985.

By his next release, another seven-inch vinyl in 1987, Allison had replaced all of the band members. That was hardly the last time the personnel behind him would change, but it was the start of an interesting trend. "They were all engineering students," he says. "They were really smart guys. I was the bonehead of the bunch, for sure."

In 1988 the Odd Sox released their first full-length vinyl. *Monkey Business* was recorded in Allison's Ann Arbor kitchen and basement, with makeshift equipment. The Odd Sox were a standard band comprising two guitars, bass, and drums, and the music was catchy bar rock with intelligent lyrics.

"We carried *Monkey Business* on consignment, and I'd listened to it a few times at the store," recalls Jeff Taras, co-owner of PJ's Records & Used CDs in Ann Arbor. "Then one day I was starting my shift and that record was playing, and I thought to myself, 'This is one of my favorite new albums of the year. What is it again?' I was both shocked and horrified to find it was a local band. I went to see them soon after, to see if they could re-create that sound live, and discovered that they could do it even better."

The band's next album, *Hokey Smoke*, arrived in 1991. In its quirky songwriting, it was a virtual sibling to *Monkey Business*. Allison filled it with articulate, story-based songs about working odd jobs, all the while on the watch for love, be it hopeless, fleeting, or purely imagined.

The song "Bachelor Remains" is about a man who gains both additional space and a financial burden when one by one his roommates get hitched and move out, leaving him alone "to pay the rent or find a spouse." In "Dishwatcher," a dishwasher in a restaurant fantasizes about an uninterested waitress: "Back in the evil world of pots 'n' pans, she works away with not a glance, while my eyes gaze in hot romance."

Allison admits that most of his songs were taken in and spat out from actual circumstances, if not his own experience. For instance, though Allison never worked as a dishwasher, Karie worked as a waitress, and much of "Dishwatcher" comes from stories that she'd relate to him.

Jeff Taras of PJ's was "shocked and horrified": one of his favorite new albums, Allison's Monkey Business, was by a local band.

"Frank's songs were very singular and literate," says Jeremy Baldwin, host of *The Roots Music Project* on WEMU. "He created a lot of wonderful characters. Whatever his influences were, his style was his own. . . . The shows at the Blind Pig were always packed. His fans were wildly loyal and even invented special dances for certain songs."

In 1991 the band took part in a Soviet-U.S. band exchange called the Surface to Surface Goodwill Tour. During a short break in the tour, they were able to record at the historic Melodiya Studios in Moscow. The tapes from this session were eventually mailed to Allison and in 1995 were released as the CD *Russia*.

At the end of 1991 a friend of Dan Beckett, Allison's lead guitarist, recorded a famous Frank Allison and the Odd Sox bootleg, *New York Sessions*, for some industry connections he had. Those connections never panned out, but Allison's fans generally were confident that the band would soon sign with some major label.

"The music was so good, and the band was from a college town with one of the largest living alumni associations," Jeff

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A SATURDAY MORNING SPENT browsing the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market is nothing if not a splendid indication of the wonderful sense of community found throughout Ann Arbor. With residents supporting local farmers and mingling among friends and neighbors, the Farmer's Market epitomizes *The Spirit of Ann Arbor*, a true Ann Arbor institution.

CAROLYN LEPARD HAS BEEN A supporter of the Farmer's Market as far back as she can remember. There are few things she enjoys more than the camaraderie and sense of community she experiences while strolling through the aisles of goods.

AS A LOCAL BUSINESSWOMAN, Carolyn is something of a local institution herself.

As one of the area's premier real estate professionals, Carolyn takes great pride and pleasure in being able to play a significant role in the lives of her fellow Ann Arbor residents. And that's exactly why she demonstrates such care and commitment to every client.

WITH DECADES OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE and years of experience in the industry, it's no wonder Ann Arbor residents turn to Carolyn for their real estate needs. When the time comes for your next move, turn to Carolyn Lepard to experience *The Spirit of Ann Arbor*.

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The Spirit of Ann Arbor
Carolyn LEPARD
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COMEBACK KID

continued

Taras remembers. "It just seemed there was money to be made. It was a complete head scratcher to me [that the band wasn't offered a contract]."

Allison, though, held off on actively pursuing a deal: "I thought that the cream will rise to the top and I don't have to sell it—as a matter of fact, selling it is going to make it look like it's not the cream."

In retrospect, Allison says, he missed some opportunities. "At one point my booking agency and manager set me up to go and talk to people that they knew in L.A.," he recalls. "I went and schmoozed with these people and was just a nice guy. I thought, 'I'm not gonna sell myself. I'm just gonna be a cool guy.' I was funny and charming and just tried to work on that, and I didn't push my music at all. And they didn't care to listen to it."

Soon after recording their 1993 live album *Pig Out* and *Workman's Meal*, Allison and the Odd Sox played a show at the French Outpost on Mackinac Island. Allison remembers hitting a high note during their third set and feeling a distinctive "twang" in his voice.

That marked the onset of the injury that would lead to his spasmodic dysphonia. Years later Allison would discover that the "twang" was likely the bursting of a blood vessel in his vocal fold. With one to three months of rest, Allison's voice would have healed, but he had a fully booked schedule and he decided it was more important to keep playing. After all, he had bills to pay, and music was his job—though the job was becoming more complicated.

"It started as an injury I had to sing around, like Kermit the Frog, to hit my notes," Allison says. "I waited about a month before going to the doctor because I had no insurance, but when I finally did, he misdiagnosed what was really a blood clot as a polyp. He said the polyp developed from my singing style—hell, when I was singing, I was growling, I was making all sorts of noises—but I was singing from my belly. Of course I was no voice expert. I never took any vocal classes, so I didn't really know anything about it. All I knew was that my voice didn't work and I was panicking. He suggested that I should see a vocal coach."

The vocal coaching did eventually help, but initially that experience just hurt his confidence. "It totally confused me and made me feel insecure about what I was doing," he says. "Suddenly I went from being the greatest singer, in my mind, to thinking that I sucked."

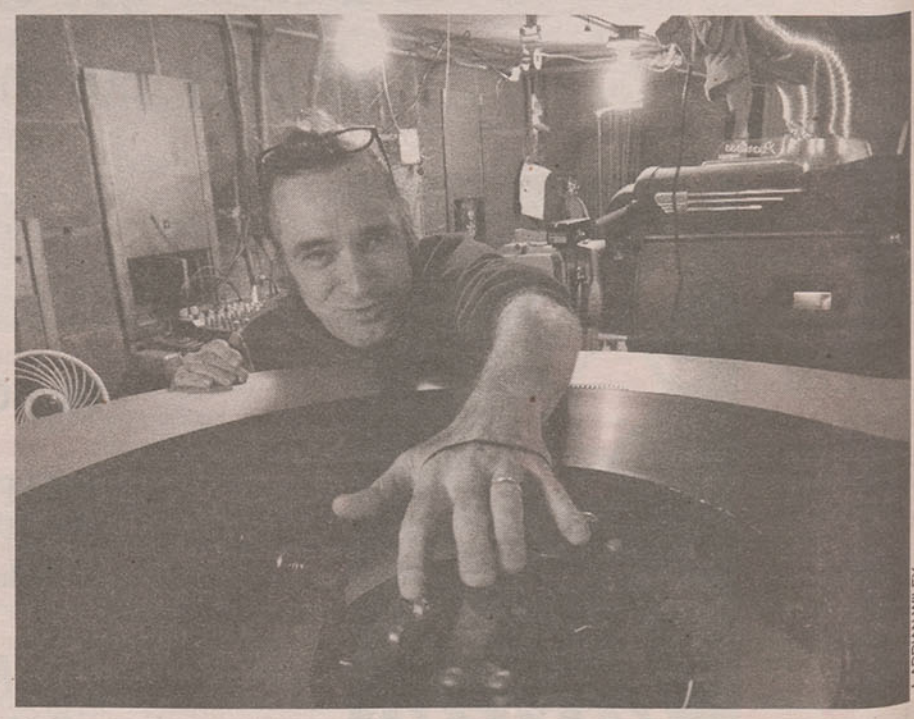
For two more years Allison continued with a full schedule of touring, followed by a year of what he calls "sputtering out."

"I sang my gigs and tried a number of vocal techniques to work around the problem, which required a complicated body function involving my brain and a large group of highly synchronized muscles," Allison says. "It was a crazy, wobbly ride, and when the ride was over, spasmodic dysphonia was the result.

"That last year there were good spells, bad spells, good nights, and bad nights," he goes on. "But it was the constant worry and the constant self-doubt that made it harder to keep the artistic boat afloat."

Frank Allison and the Odd Sox played their last official show on New Year's Eve 1996 at the Blind Pig. Allison did play a Top of the Park show during the Ann Arbor Summer Festival in 1997, but by that point his voice had so deteriorated that he had to bring guest singers onstage to sing the lyrics.

At the urging of his friend Wendy Williams, Allison finally went to the U-M Vo-



J. ADRIAN WILEY

Another form of entertainment: After Allison stopped singing, he and his wife, Karie, bought the historic Clinton Theater. At $3 a head, he says they do their best business with kids' movies. "*Snow Dogs* was a good one," he says. "Any movie in which animals talk tends to do well for us."

cal Health Center and had his throat scoped. The doctors found a healthy vocal fold, but the throat kept constricting for no apparent reason. He was given vocal exercises and returned to the center for ten more visits, until he could no longer afford them.

"Not playing anymore was difficult," Allison admits. "But it was a gradual thing with different layers to it. When my voice got bad, I slowly stopped writing, gigging slowed down, and the overall enjoyment level of the entire experience dissipated. When the first couple of issues of the *Current* came out and I wasn't in it, that was depressing, but in a way I felt like the cycle was complete. I went back to childhood in terms of buying records and making mixed discs and participating in a consumerist-type way."

> *"I discovered that I can still play, and if I don't enunciate words, I don't tend to spasm and I can scat, mumble, whatever. It just comes out."*

He admits now that not singing at all during those years hurt him, but psychologically he needed the time. "It would have been better for my voice to have kept playing and singing than to have quit altogether; that slowed me down more and prompted the spasm to get worse," Allison says. "But I was pretty bummed out about it and wanted a break by then. I was sinking in debt as well."

Allison sold his tour van and got a job as a landscaper. He married Karie, started a family, and bought a movie theater. Listening to his own music was too depressing, he says, but other music was always present. And while the thought of making music again crossed his mind from time to time, he had no real plans to do it.

At least not until 2005, when he picked up his daughter's ukulele and began picking a tune.

"It started in similar fashion to how it had when I was a kid and made my tapes," Allison says of his musical rebirth. "The technology has changed, but I started layering the music the same way. The music came first and then the lyrics. 'Couch Potatoes' was the first song I completed, and I was real excited with the finished version. 'Night Shade' came next. Basically the stuff at the end of the album was recorded first, and I worked backwards toward the material at the beginning."

He recorded *Log Rhythms of Love* on a computer in his bedroom—which Allison claims is the best studio he's ever had. Now that he's at the mercy of spasmodic dysphonia and has only small windows when he's able to sing the way he wants to, convenience and comfort are of the utmost importance.

The new music is very different from the rock 'n' roll he performed with the Odd Sox. Now Allison is his own band and plays an array of instruments, including clarinet, accordion, tuba, organ, saxophone, cabasa, tambourine, claves, drums, bass, guitar, and, of course, his trusty ukulele. His influences have changed, too. According to Allison, the "world beat" feel of *Log Rhythms of Love* comes from listening to a lot of Brazilian, Indian, and African music. And the subject matter in the lyrics has changed as well: the songs were all originally written for and about his kids, ten-year-old Olive and her seven-year-old brother, Julian.

Allison says he's both nervous and excited about the release of *Log Rhythms of Love*, which can be downloaded from iTunes, Rhapsody, and Amazon. Hard copies can also be purchased, as can his other releases, from PJ's and cdbaby.com.

"I'm selling stuff on iTunes," Allison says. "I still sell CDs here and there, but people really do that iTunes business—which is funny, since I don't know how to use it myself."

Looking back on the Odd Sox, Allison admits he's aware that he created something special and something that could have been much bigger.

"The analogy that I always use is that I built this really great car," Allison says. "It doesn't burn gas—it just burns air. And it goes from zero to a hundred miles per hour safely. And I took that thing and I went in my backyard and drove around yelling, 'Isn't this thing cool? Wow, this is the greatest. Everyone should have one.' But I didn't do anything with it. You know, I just did it. It was fun."

There were other benefits, apart from having fun and creating some fantastic music. Allison forged many a friendship from his Odd Sox days, including Karie, who worked the front desk at his booking agency, Prism. He remembers thinking up excuses to go there, just to flirt with her.

Allison has the four reels of *Cloverfield* connected now and ready to roll at 7 p.m. He walks from the projection booth, across a narrow balcony that overlooks the 200-seat theater, and down a flight of stairs. There's a small candy and refreshment booth to the left of the ticket window. Tootsie Roll Pops cost a quarter. He locks the front door and stands momentarily beneath the marquee.

"Eventually I'll go somewhere and do an open mike and just see if I can do it," he says. "Especially if I'm there and nobody cares. If I'm in some smoky, drab place, where nobody knows who I am, I think there I could get onstage and try it."

Allison climbs into a red sedan and drives away—home to Karie, Olive, and Julian. There, possibly, he'll record a new song. And perhaps sometime soon some lucky individuals in a smoky, drab bar will witness a special night of music. ■

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2008 Ann Arbor Antiques Market

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd
Ann Arbor MI 48103
(Exit #175 off I-94, the south 3 miles)
Come help celebrate our 40th season!

2008 Dates:
May 17th & 18th
June 14th & 15th
July 19th & 20th
August 16th & 17th
September 20th & 21st
October 18th & 19th

Market Hours 8am—4pm
$6 Admission/Free re-admission
For directions and all other information:
Doug Supinger
#937.875.0808
Anersoup@aol.com
www.annarborantiquesmarket.com

Calendar of Events May 2008

Kerrytown Market & Shops

3 **Workshop at Hollander's: Leather Concertina Binding**
Saturday and Sunday May 3-4, 9 to 5 and 10 to 5 Fee: $230
Students explore various leather embellishments and finish a leather book sewn concertina style. Beginner to advanced.

5 **Workshop at Hollander's: Bookmaking Jam Session**
Monday thru Friday May 5-9, 10 to 5 Fee: $450
Five-day workshop on non-traditional book structure and content. Includes a field trip to Jean Buescher Bartlett's studio and the UM Special Collections Library. Plus special access to Open Studio..

7 **Cinco de Mayo Fest- at eve the restaurant**
Wednesday May 7, 7pm Fee: $50 per person
Our annual ultra-festive tequila tasting featuring artisanal tequilas and fiery and flavorful tapas, led by our own Ari Sussman.

Mother Fest

PHOTOGRAPHY: MYRA KLARMAN

Whether you're a mom, a mom-to-be, or with your Mom, join us as we celebrate Mother's Day weekend.

FRIDAY, MAY 9TH

Build-a-Bracelet Party!
at FOUND, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
We'll have hundreds of vintage sterling charms, old plastic Cracker Jack toys, Sally Jean Doodle-oos, blank photo charms and other little doo-dads. We're also celebrating our 3rd Anniversary- join us for cake!

SATURDAY, MAY 10TH

9 **Mother's Day Brunch-** at Everyday Cook, 10 to 2
Come join Everyday Cook for a special Mother's Day Brunch.

Free Portraits- 10am to 1pm in Farmers' Market
Portrait photographer Myra Klarman captures the fun with complimentary prints that will be posted for the taking.

10 **Decorate a Tote Bag-** at Elephant Ears, 12 to 5
Bring your child to Elephant Ears to decorate a reusable tote bag especially for MOM. Bags and supplies provided. Limited quantities.

11 **Workshop at Hollander's: Paper Engineering-** 10 to 4
Great workshop for kids! Printingmaking is done using a large spoke wheel etching press. Create a work of art suitable for framing. Designed for ages 8 to 16. Fee: $95

SUNDAY, MAY 11TH

Mother's Day Champagne Brunch- at eve, 11am to 2pm
Celebrate spring with seasonal delicacies and champagne! Signed copies of the eve cookbook will be available at a 10% discount in honor of the special women in our lives. Call for reservations or visit our website, www.evetherestaurant.com

Posie for Mothers- at Found
Visit Found during our 3rd Anniversary Celebration. We'll give you a free posie for your favorite Mom, with any purchase.

11 **Workshop at Hollander's: Home Book Repair**
Sunday, May 11, 10 to 5 Fee: $110
Learn how to make simple book repairs in your home using minimal tools or equipment.

13 **Workshop at Hollander's: Introducing the Pronto Plate**
Tuesday Evenings May 13, May 20 and May 27, 6 to 8:30 Fee: $100
Also known as polyester plate lithography, pronto plate prints are quick, easy and inexpensive. Draw directly on the surface, or use a copier to create images.

17 **Workshop at Hollander's: Photo Lithography & Collage**
Saturdays, May 17 and 24, 10 to 5 Fee: $225
Learn the process of photo lithography which uses a Xerox copy as a printing plate. Expand your idea of what a finished print can be.

Cinco de Mayo Fest- at Sparrow Market
Saturday May 17, 7pm Fee: $45 per person
Five course meal served in the unique environment of our market floor. Authentic Mexican feast. Call 761-8175 for reservations and more information.

18 **Workshop at Hollander's: Rounded Back Sec 2**
Sunday May 18, 10 to 5:30 Fee: $135
Basic Bookbinding- Rounded Back teaches you the basic components to binding or rebinding a book of any size.

21 **Workshop at Hollander's: Art Dolls**
Wednesday May 21 and May 28, 10 to 3 Fee: $130
Using sticks, fabric or found objects, this class is about creating dolls in a new way.

Workshop at Hollander's: Intro to Letterpress Printing
Thursday May 22, 10 to 5 Fee: $145
Experience the basics of letterpress printing by hand-setting type, using a composing stick, furniture, and spacing material.

22 **Workshop at Hollander's: Paper Sculpture**
Thursday Evenings May 22 and May 29, 6 to 8 Fee: $43
In this two day class, learn how to create 3-D images by cutting various types and color of paper into different shapes and gluing them together. This art form is similar to paper tole, but allows more flexibility in the design. Suitable for ages 12 and over.

26 **Closed for Memorial Day**
Monday, May 26
Happy Memorial Day! Kerrytown Market & Shops will be closed for the holiday. Stock up on all your provisions early!

31 **Workshop at Hollander's: Carborumdum Printing & Chine Colle**
Saturday May 31, 10 to 5 Fee: $100
This etching workshop uses a silicon carbide abrasive that produces a rich tonal texture when mixed with acrylic gloss medium. Chine Colle uses decorative tissue papers to add subtle textures & colors.

Monday through Friday 8am until 7pm
2nd floor merchants open at 10am

Saturdays 7am until 6pm
2nd floor merchants open at 9am

Sundays 9am until 6pm
2nd floor merchants open at 11am

407n.fifthavenue • for more info on events & shops visit • www.kerrytown.com

May Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:
The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

Shemekia Copeland, May 10

Teitur, May 13

GALLERIES

61 Exhibit Openings — *Katie Whitney*

61 Gallery Review
William Christenberry: Photographs, 1961–2005 — *Katie Whitney*

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

98 Nightspots Schedule — *John Hinchey*

98 Nightspots Review
Back Forty — *Stephanie Kadel-Taras*

EVENTS REVIEWS

53 *Growing Pretty*
Not a love story — *Sally Mitani*

57 Trina Hamlin
Minnesota blues — *Sandor Slomovits*

59 The Mother Truckers
Existential country rock — *James M. Manheim*

63 Jimmy Scott
Unearthly sounds — *James M. Manheim*

72 Dexter Community Orchestra
For love, not money — *James Leonard*

79 Raymond McDaniel
After the hurricane — *Keith Taylor*

87 Marcin Wasilewski Trio
Simple acoustic and beyond — *Piotr Michalowski*

132 Events at a Glance

***110 in the Shade*, May 30 & 31**

Mr. B, May 31

1 THURSDAY

★May Day Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris Dancers. All invited to celebrate this traditional holiday with outdoor singing and boisterous, jingly morris dancing. "We like to rise when the sun she rises," organizers say. *6–7 a.m., U-M Nichols Arboretum (meet at cement benches near Geddes Rd. entrance gate). Free. 747–8138.*

★"Spring Migration Walk in Nichols Arboretum": Washtenaw Audubon Society. *Every Thursday, April 10–May 29.* All invited to join club members for a walk through the Arb to look for resident birds and early migrants, which begin arriving in earnest toward the end of April. *9 a.m. departure (early afternoon return), meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of Riverview off Geddes. Free. 994–3569.*

★"Jackson County Brunch Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Thursday.* Moderate-paced ride, 25–50 miles, along the less traveled roads of scenic Jackson County. *9 a.m., meet at Cavanaugh Lake Park, Cavanaugh Lake Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, 3.2 miles west of Chelsea. Free. 994–5908.*

"Mother Goose Day": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Infants to 5-year-olds (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for games, coloring, goose crafts, storytime, and snacks. *9–11:45 a.m., Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, 2960 Washtenaw. $4. 971–6355.*

★"No Bills Day": Washtenaw County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section. Free 20-minute consultations with local attorneys on just about any kind of legal matter, from family law and landlord-tenant relations to civil rights and criminal law. Also, free literature on small claims court procedures, tenants' rights, home safety, domestic violence, sale and purchase of real estate, and more. In celebration of Law Day. *9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. Appointments are strongly recommended, but walk-ins are fitted in as time permits. 996–3229.*

★"Spring Unfolding Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Thursday.* Beginner-friendly slow-paced ride, 10–15 miles, around Ann Arbor neighborhoods to explore the delights of local gardens, parks, and cafes. *10 a.m., meet at Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 971–5763.*

★Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered at the Pittsfield (May 1, 7–7:30 p.m., & May 2, 10–10:30 a.m.) Branch. *10–10:30, AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327–4200.*

★Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thursday.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. May 1 is also a birthday celebration for those age 80 & older. The weekly program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At 11 a.m., a **Current Events** discussion group hosted by Heather Dombey. At 1 p.m., a cultural or educational program. Today: **"The Four Treasures,"** a talk by U-M Museum of Art docent Bobbie Levine on the Chinese concepts of the 4 treasures (tools of the artist) and the 4 formats (hand and hanging scrolls, fans, and album leafs). Also this month: UMMA docent Kaaren Strauch Brown discusses **"The Silk Road"** (May 8), UMMA docent Sue Frazier discusses **"The Transition from Medieval to Renaissance Worldviews"** (May 22), and UMMA docents Sue Frazier and Ina Sandalow discuss **"American Landscapes of the 19th Century"** (May 29). On May 15, the group takes a trip (reservations required) to the Michigan Theater to see the **Jewish Film Festival** screening at 2 p.m. of the documentary *Six Days* (see listing). The day concludes at 2:15 p.m. with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group**, a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors). *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

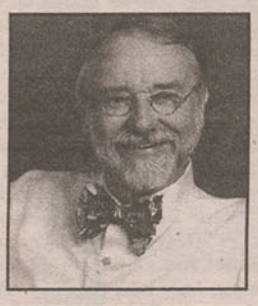
"Information Technology and Its Effects on Us": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. *Every Thursday, April 17–May 22.* A series of 6 lectures by U-M and visiting scholars. Today: former U-M School of Public Policy policy development and education director Virginia Rezmierski discusses **"Personal Identity: Elements, Use, Theft, and Protection."** Also this month: U-M laboratory research scientist Klaus-Peter Beier discusses **"Virtual Reality: The Technology and Its Applications"** (May 8), Feld Entertainment creative development vice-president (and former U-M music professor) Jerry Bilik discusses **"Pixels versus Pixies: Information Technology and Its Influence on the Creative Process in Entertainment"** (May 15), and U-M vice-provost for academic information John King discusses **"How Information Technology Is Changing Learning at the U-M"** (May 22). *10–11:30 a.m., Best Western Executive Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $45 (members, $30) for the 6-lecture series. Memberships are $15 a year. Preregistration required. 998–9351.*

"Treasure Island": Wild Swan Theater. *April 30 & May 1–4.* This award-winning local children's theater presents local playwright Jeff Duncan's fast-paced, lively adaptation of the Robert Louis Stevenson children's classic, complete with sword fighting and historically accurate female pirates. (The May 4 performance is followed by a pirate-themed party with $1 carnival games and food.) Suitable for kids in grades K–7. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by prearrangement for blind audience members. Cast: Hilary Cohen, Sandy Ryder, Michele Trame-Lanzi, Justin Vidovic, Jeremy Salvatori, and Kevin Stacy. Live music by David Mosher. *10:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (children, $8; lap passes for kids age 2 & under, $3) in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble. *Every Wednesday & Thursday.* Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids. *11 a.m. (Thurs.) & 6:30 p.m. (Wed.), Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thursday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *Noon–3 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 769–5911.*

May 2008 Event *Highlights*
Ann Arbor District Library



All events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.

Sunday 2:00 - 4:00 pm — **4** — **The Memory in the Mirror: Daughters Reflecting on Motherloss** • A workshop focusing on ways to include our mothers in our legacies • Malletts Creek Branch

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **7** — Musician/Storyteller **Bill Jamerson** celebrates **The 75th Anniversary of Michigan's Civilian Conservation Corps**

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **8** — **Car-lite, Car-less: How We Commute to Work** A panel discussion with local commuters **Ed Vielmetti**, **Alaine Karoleff**, **Scott Munzel**, and **Tamara Real**

Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm — **9** — **Get the Lead Out** • Drop by for educational information and activities to get lead out of your home • Pittsfield Branch

Friday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **9** — **Christine Mary McGinley** presents **The Words of a Woman** An interpretive reading of her literary mosaic

Saturday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm — **10** — **Asthma Screening and Education Day** Presented by **Alan Baptist, MD** and **Georgiana Sanders, MD**

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **13** — Germany's Greenest Mayor **Boris Palmer**, mayor of Ann Arbor's Sister City of Tübingen, discusses **Climate Change and the City**

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **14** — **Disappearing Honey Bees & Bumble Bees: What's Happening to Our Pollinators** with scientist/author **Dr. Stephen Buchmann** Pittsfield Branch

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **14** — Musician **Ray Kamalay** presents **Freedom, Slavery and the Roots of American Music** • A lecture with music

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **15** — Award-winning storyteller **Donald Davis** presents **How to Shape Personal and Family-based Stories** • A life stories workshop for adults

Friday 6:00 - 7:30 pm — **16** — **2008 Ann Arbor Book Festival Opening Reception** Mingle with many of the Festival's distinguished authors

Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **19** — **Cokie Roberts** discusses her new book ***Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation*** • Michigan Theater

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **21** — Author **John Otterbacher** discusses his struggle with heart disease, his love of sailing and his award-winning book ***Sailing Grace***

Thursday 6:30 - 7:30 pm — **22** — **Learn How to Plant Your Own Perennials** with **Lodi Farms Nursery** • Pittsfield Branch

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **22** — **Finding Local Food and Bringing It Home for Dinner: Supporting Our Farms** with local farmers and food experts

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **27** — **Healing Health Care in Michigan: Working Toward a Health Care System That Works**

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **28** — **Yellow Room Gang Concert** Enjoy a spirited performance by Michigan musicians

Thursday 6:30 - 8:30 pm — **29** — **Understanding Alzheimer's** with the **Alzheimer's Association of Michigan**

For more information call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

1 THURSDAY *continued*

★Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals. *May 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29.* Performances by area and guest artists. Today: avant-folk group and toy instrumentalists **Little Bang Theory.** Also this month: the **Choral Connection** (see 31 Saturday listing) previews its vintage American pop show (May 8), the **Madrigals** perform Baroque to contemporary music (May 15), the violin-piano duo **Kaleidoscope** performs works by Beethoven, Brahms, Franck, Kreisler, and others (May 22), and pianist **Jerry Perrine** performs ragtime, blues, and boogie-woogie (May 29). *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★Socrates Cafe: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thursday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to join a discussion of ethics that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. *2 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★"Yappy Hours": DogmaCatmantoo. *Every Thursday.* All invited to join a casual group discussion about pets and pet-related issues. Bring your pet. Snacks. *5–7 p.m., DogmaCatmantoo, 208 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 929–0022.*

★"Phonics Things": Barnes & Noble. Educator, writer, and artist **Brian Kissman,** a former Belleville elementary school principal, presents and discusses his new reading primer that pairs reproductions of 80 original oil paintings with narrative poems. Some of the paintings used in the book are on display. *5–7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

Board Game Night: Get Your Game On. *Every Thursday.* All invited to bring their own favorite board game or play one of the store's. *6 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. $5. 786–3746.*

★"Chelsea Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Thursday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 20–30 miles, to either Dexter, Grass Lake, Munith, Stockbridge, or the Waterloo Recreation Area. *6 p.m., meet at the north side of Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1178 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 285–6830.*

★Ann Arbor Front Runners. *Every Tuesday & Thursday.* Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3–5 miles to run with Front Runners members. *6:30 p.m., meet at Furstenberg Park, off Fuller Rd. across from Huron High School. Free. 741–1763.*

★Annual Banquet: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society. Screening of ***Mining for Rhodochrosite***, a film about mining for this vibrant pink rock in Colorado. Bring a dish to pass for a potluck dinner; beverage and table service provided. *6:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665–5574.*

★"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *6:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★"Thursday Evening Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Thursday.* Fast/moderate-paced 25-mile ride around northeast Ann Arbor that includes some good chances to improve your climbing skills. *6:45 p.m., meet at the Fuller Pool parking lot, Fuller Rd. Free. 996–9122.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Thursday.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

★Ann Arbor Go Club. *Every Sunday & Thursday.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.) & 1–6 p.m. (Sun.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

★"Knees: The Weak Link! What Can I Do to Prevent Knee Injury and Stay Active Despite a Painful Knee?": U-M Bone and Joint Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation Center. Talks by BJIPRC director Ron Zernicke, U-M retired football coach **Lloyd Carr,** U-M orthopedic surgery department chair Jim Carpenter, U-M MedSport director Ed Wojtys, and U-M kinesiology professor Riann Palmieri Smith. *7–8:30 p.m., Four Points Sheraton Grande Ballroom, 3200 Boardwalk. Free. 930–7070.*

★"Asthma and Allergies Arrested": Whole Foods Market. Local chiropractor Mark Perlmutter discusses natural remedies for treating asthma and allergies. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975–4500.*

★"Food Sensitivities & Intolerances": Plum Market. Talk by local naturopath Diana Christoff Quinn. Recipes included. *7 p.m., Plum Market lounge, Maple Village. Free. 827–5000.*

Growing Pretty
Not a love story

Growing Pretty, making its world premiere at the Purple Rose, is a coming-of-age (and going-a-little-past) story of a young artist. Its theme is remarkably underutilized, and the playwright, first-timer Carey Crim, deserves extra points for either reinventing it or stealing it from Willa Cather's *Song of the Lark,* another story that derives most of its power from what it's not about. How often do you see a story of a woman that is rich with romance and yet doesn't ultimately revolve around her romantic choices?

Lucy (Stacie Hadgikosti) spends a large part of her time onstage in a deeply complex love affair with her mentor, which eventually ends, leaving her neither victimized nor hardened. She's not torn between irreconcilable longings for family and career. As the play ends, she is entering middle age with grace and satisfaction at where her art has taken her, and we have no idea what state her romantic life is in. This story arc is an odd and lopsided one for women, bucking the Jane Austen rule that a young woman's romantic choices will determine the course of her life. The final scene strikes with a kind of stealth brilliance when you find out that *Growing Pretty* is not a play about How I Met My Husband, or Why I Can Never Love Again. It's a play about struggle and reward in other realms.

Hadgikosti wears the role as if it's welded to her bare skin, and she grabs you from the opening monologue. When the curtain rises, she's sitting cross-legged on a bare stage, clearly preparing to address the audience for a while. It's a tough gig to pull off, like starting a song on high C, but she has an openness and directness that make her irresistibly watchable even when she's on stage alone.

The script is perhaps a bit loaded with nuclear-family-dysfunction big-ticket items: depression, dead siblings, absent father, infidelity. It helps that Lucy's story is coupled to real events—the 1979 Iran hostage crisis, Tiananmen Square, Jack Kevorkian, the rise of Michael Jordan and Bill Clinton—which tether her to a recognizable world, because it's not always clear what meaning Crim was trying to tease out of the unhappy family history. Lucy does grow pretty: when she pulls off a hoodie she convincingly transforms herself from chubby twelve-year-old to resplendent young adult, and the change owes a lot to the effective costume design of Meghann O'Malley Powell. The fluid, simple production is directed by Michelle Mountain and rounded out with a solid ensemble including Grant Krause, Michael Brian Ogden, and Rhiannon Ragland.

Growing Pretty continues its two-month run through May 31, Wednesdays through Sundays plus two Tuesdays, May 6 and 27.

—Sally Mitani

"Spiritual Inquiry": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Thursday.* All invited to join a group discussion. The program begins with a short presentation. *7–8 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327–0270.*

"Foods from Our Australian Pantry": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff member Vanessa Sly discusses and offers taste samples of Australian olive oils, vinegars, native spices, honey, and curry pastes. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $20 in advance, $25 at the door. 663–3354.*

Milonga: Club de Tango. Tango dancers of all levels and styles invited. No partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. The program begins with a 30-minute beginners lesson. *7–10 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94), Saline. $5. 936–8181.*

Spring Concert: Dance Body. *May 1 & 2.* A showcase of choreography in a variety of dance idioms by members of this all-city company, directed by Deborah Sipos-Roe, of students from Community, Pioneer, and Huron high schools. Also, a performance by the award-winning **Community High School Jazz Band,** directed by Mike Grace. *7 p.m., Community High School. $8 (students, $5; family, $20) at the door only. 994–2021.*

"Pride and Prejudice": The Home School Connection Thespian Society. *May 1 & 2.* Becky Faraj, a homeschool mother with a degree in drama, directs a cast of area homeschooled teens in Jon Jory's fast-paced adaptation of Jane Austen's durably popular 1813 novel about an independent, gracious, and sharp-minded young woman—with 4 sisters and an overbearing matchmaking mother—whose good sense and determination not to be undone meet their match in a handsome but mysterious young man. Stars Hannah DeRocher, Katie Erickson, David Raney, Tony Corrazol, Joe Perotta, and Rebecca Zahm. *7 p.m., Whitmore Lake High School, 8877 Whitmore Lake Rd. $3 (family, $15) in advance, $4 at the door. 484–3497.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Thursday.* Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver (off Nixon). $5. 769–4324, 426–0241.*

★McDowell Writing Awards Performances: Greenhills School. A variety show of poems, stories, plays, and essays written and performed by middle and high school students who won awards in this spring's writing contest. Preceded by a showcase of student artwork. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 769–4010.*

Bitch & the Exciting Conclusion and Ferron: The Ark. Double bill featuring women's music stars from different generations who tonight perform both separately and together. Bitch is an inventive performance artist who sets her culturally and politically contentious postbeat lyrics to wildly offbeat, heavily percussive, and partly improvised music that she performs on electric violin, ukulele, and bass guitar. *The Advocate* calls her music "a torrid brew of sexually and politically charged spoken-sung lyrics, stripped-down instrumentation, and assorted tribal-edged percussion." She performs with her band, the Exciting Conclusion. Ferron is a veteran Canadian singer-songwriter who sings in a clear, passionate alto with a spiky conversational edge and writes searching personal songs with hauntingly beautiful melodies and lyrics as taut and reverberant as the emotions they express. She has a new CD, *Border,* that longtime fan Bitch produced. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Puppetry Improv: Dreamland Theater. *Every Thursday.* The Dreamland puppet troupe uses marionettes, rod puppets, and other forms of puppetry in an improv performance inspired by current events, audience suggestions, and "whatever strikes our fancy." *8–9 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. Pay what you can. 657–2337.*

"A Few Good Men": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. *May 1–4.* Andrew Ballnik directs Aaron Sorkin's drama about the trial of 2 marines for complicity in the death of a fellow marine that turns on the question of whether illegal orders should be followed. Stars Carl Ellison, James Brown, David Renken, Wendy Ascione, and Sam Zwetchkenbaum. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Tickets $20 ($17, students & seniors; $13, Thurs.; $10 for students on Fri. & seniors on Sun.) in advance. 971–2228.*

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. *May 1–4, 8–11, & 15–18.* Charles Jabour directs local actors in George Bernard Shaw's popular satiric comedy, set during the 1885 Serbo-Bulgarian war, about a naively romantic young aristocratic woman who falls in love despite herself with a hard-boiled Swiss mercenary who would rather carry chocolates than guns. *Arms* offers a humorous critique of sentimental idealism in war and love. Stars Brittany Filek-Gibson, Audra Lord, Luna Alexander, Josh Hamilton, Jared Heeren, Gary Regal, and Joseph Fournier. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (students & seniors, $15; groups of 6 or more, $12 each; Thurs., pay what you can) in advance and at the door. 214–6600.*

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wednesday–Sunday (except May 7) through May 31, and May 6 & 27. See review, left.* Michelle Mountain directs the world premiere of Carey Crim's coming-of-age tale about a girl who dreams of becoming a supermodel. When her mom steals the love of her life, the girl has to navigate, alone, the difficult path of becoming an artist. The cast features Stacie Hadgikosti, Brian Ogden, Grant Krause, Rhiannon Ragland, Matt Gwynn, and Hugh Maguire. *8 p.m., Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $25 (Wed. & Thurs.), $30 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), & $35 (Fri. & Sat. eves.) in advance and at the door. 433–7673.*

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thursday–Sunday, April 24–June 1.* David Wolber directs the renowned South African playwright Athol Fugard's recent autobiographical drama, set in the mid-1950s, about his life-changing friendship with the legendary Afrikaans actor Andre Huguenet, known at one time as the Laurence Olivier of South Africa. Set during apartheid, the play explores the nature and power of the theater through the mutually sustaining relationship that develops between an idealistic young actor and an older actor struggling to find meaning and dignity at the end of his career. According to *New York Times* critic Charles Isherwood, the play "movingly speaks of theater's potential to shape lives in enduring ways, even as it acknowledges the evanescence of the art form." Stars Robert Grossman and Kevin Young. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Preview tickets: whatever you can afford to pay (Apr. 24), $20 (Apr. 25 & 27 and May 1), and $28 (Apr. 26). May 2 opening night tickets: $42 includes reception. After May 2: $30 (Thurs. & Sat. matinee), $35 (Fri. & Sun.), and $42 (Sat. eve.). $3 discounts available for seniors age 60 & over, $10 discounts available (except Sat. eve.) for students. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets & $10 tickets for age 16 & under available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

Nick Gaza: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 1–3.* A veteran guest performer in TV sitcoms, Gaza is a very funny and playfully irreverent stand-up comic who bills himself as "The Laziest Working Man in Show Business," sometimes even performing in PJs. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

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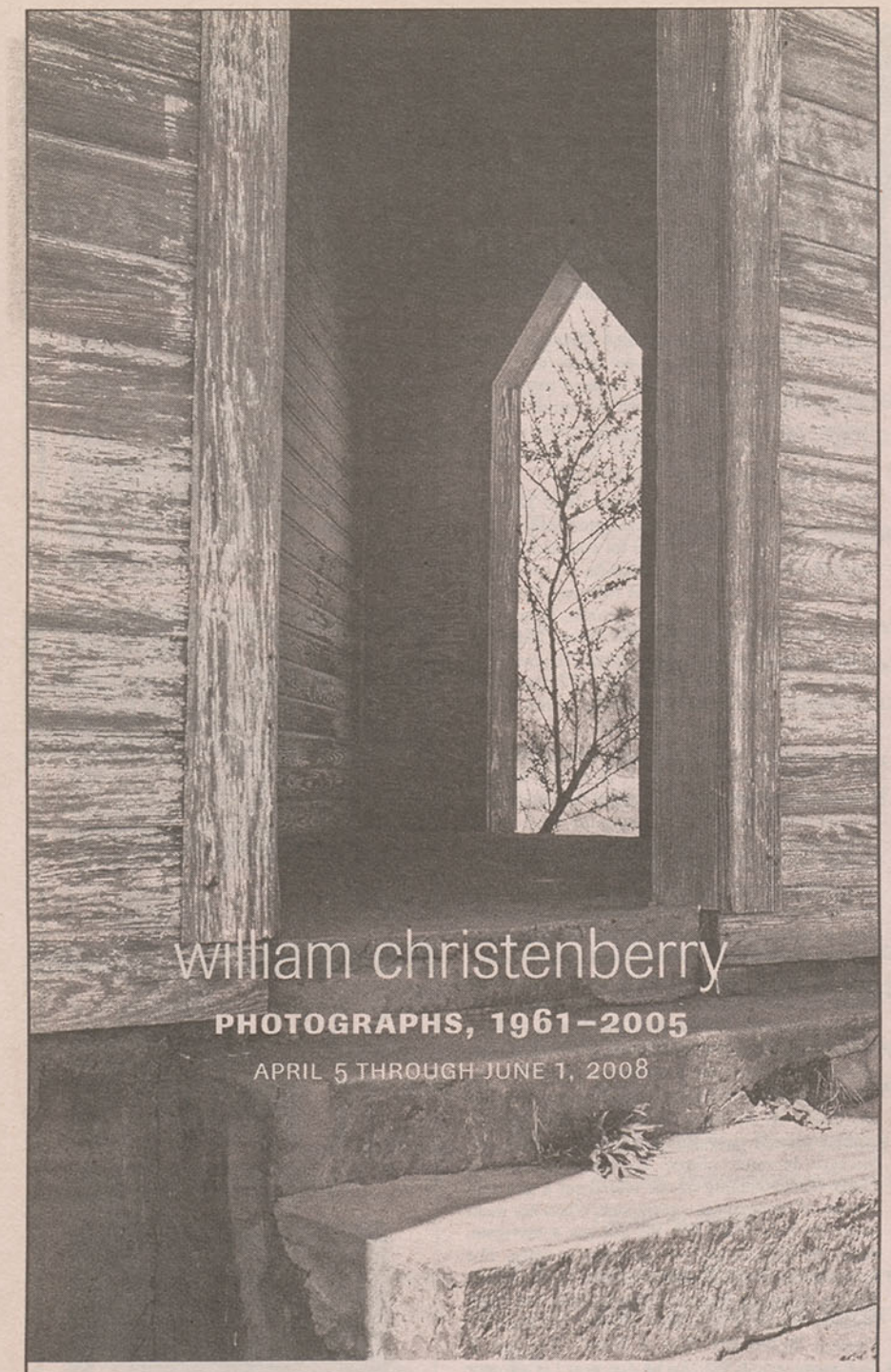

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The Ann Arbor presentation is made possible in part by The University of Michigan Health System and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and other generous donors.

aperturefoundation

William Christenberry, *Guinea Church, near Moundville, Alabama* (detail), 1964. 35 mm. Courtesy of Aperture

1 THURSDAY *continued*

★**Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** *Every Thursday.* Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavanes, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. *9 p.m., Michigan League Room D. Free. 971–1809.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Year My Parents Went on Vacation" (Cao Hamburger, 2006). Brazilian drama, set against the backdrop of the 1970 World Cup and a repressive dictatorship, about a boy left in a Jewish and Italian neighborhood with his grandfather, who dies just after the departure of the boy's parents, who are political activists forced into hiding. Portuguese, Yiddish, German; subtitles. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

2 FRIDAY

★**"Huron River Bike Trail Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Friday.* Slow-paced ride, 13 miles or more, along the Huron River from Bandemer Park to Parker Mill, along with some alternate routes. *9 a.m., meet at Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 663–4498.*

Annual May Friendship Day: Church Women United. Women of all faiths are invited to fellowship, a worship service, and a chance to listen to and tell personal stories of faith. This year's theme, honoring local women clergy, is **"God's Love Invites Hospitality."** Followed by lunch. *9:30 a.m., location TBA. Freewill offering. 665–8773.*

★**Writing Groups: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Friday.* All seniors invited to read and discuss the poetry, essays, reminiscences, and fiction they have written. *10 a.m.–noon, Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

"Treasure Island": Wild Swan Theater. See 1 Thursday. (A 7 p.m. show today is sold out.) 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★**"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders.** *Every Friday.* Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: Mother Goose's ***Selected Nursery Rhymes***. Also this month: Jeanne Willis's ***Mommy, Do You Love Me?*** and Julia Donaldson's ***Where's My Mom?*** (May 9), H. A. Rey's ***Curious You: On Your Way!*** and ***Curious George Lost and Found*** (May 16), Dr. Seuss's ***Yertle the Turtle*** and Paulette Bourgeois's ***Franklin Goes to the Hospital*** (May 23), and Bernadette Peters's ***Broadway Barks*** and Laura Seeger's ***Dog and Bear: Two's Company*** (May 30). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★**Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Friday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. *1 p.m., Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower). Free. 769–5911.*

★**Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Monday & Friday.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**Frank Turner: Barnes & Noble.** This former *Channel 7* News anchor discusses his new autobiography, ***Raised from the Dead***. *6–8 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

Magic: the Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Friday.* All invited to compete in a booster draft tournament of this popular collectible card game. Bring your own cards. *6 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. $15 (includes cards). 786–3746.*

★**"Dexter DQ Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Friday.* Slow-paced 26-mile ride to the Dexter Dairy Queen for a snack. *6 p.m., Abbot School, 2670 Sequoia Pkwy. (off Maple 1 block south of Miller). Free. 662–0205.*

U-M Baseball vs. Ohio State. *May 2 & 4 (single games) and May 3 (doubleheader). 6:30 p.m. (May 2), 4:05 p.m. (May 3), & 1 p.m. (May 4), Ray Fisher Stadium. $5 (youths age 12 & under, $3; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

"Sensoiree": Dance Gallery Studio. A gala reception featuring food, wine, door prizes, and a silent auction with the chance to win a special performance created for you by the Peter Sparling Dance Company. *7 p.m., 113½ W. Liberty. Tickets $40 in advance, $50 at the door. 747–8885.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 996–1332.*

★**"May Moonlight Delight": Main Street Area Association.** Sidewalk entertainers include Elvis tribute artist **Chris Solano,** juggler **Tim Salisbury,** and the local Theatrical Control Network, which presents 1-minute productions of *Macbeth* and the "Othello Rap" and sword-fighting fairies. Many stores are open until midnight with special sales, and Main Street Area galleries host a variety of special activities. *7–9 p.m., downtown area between Main & State. Free. 668–7112.*

Spring Concert: Dance Body. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Pride and Prejudice": The Home School Connection Thespian Society. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka": Pioneer High School Theater Guild. *April 26 & 27 and May 2–4.* U-M musical theater major Etai BenShlomo directs Pioneer students in the local premiere of Tim McDonald and Leslie Bricusse's musical adaptation of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,* Roald Dahl's popular children's fantasy about a little boy who is invited, along with 4 other children, to tour a magical candy factory. The score features music Bricusse composed with Anthony Newley for the 1971 film adaptation, along with several new songs. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. $12 (students, $8) in advance at Morgan & York (1928 Packard) and at the door. 994–2191.*

The Ullmann/Swell 4Tet: Kerrytown Concert House. Jazz ensemble led by award-winning Berlin multi-instrumentalist **Gebhard Ullmann** and popular New York avant-garde trombonist **Steve Swell**. Featuring percussionist Barry Altschul, a former member of the acclaimed 70s jazz band Circle, and New York bassist Hill Greene. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5) in advance and at the door. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

Trina Hamlin: The Ark. *See review, p. 57.* Minneapolis-bred singer-songwriter known for her pure, powerful voice and for her absorption of a variety of musical styles, from blues and R&B to country. *Performing Songwriter* has praised her music for its "exhilarating rawness and sheer grooving rush." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). *May 2 & 3.* Note downtown location. This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, Massachusetts, writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released 4 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Live in Michigan*. A big hit in earlier Green Wood appearances. *8 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

"Taming of the Shrew": Huron High School. *May 2 & 3.* Bj Wallingford directs Huron students in Shakespeare's witty comedy about a wealthy merchant who marries off his sharp-tongued, feisty eldest daughter to a man who turns out to be an authoritarian, often abusive, husband. With one of Shakespeare's most absorbingly suspenseful plots, *Shrew* also features amazing exploits, lots of high-spirited impersonations, sharp wits, and even sharper tongues. *8 p.m., Meyers Auditorium, Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Tickets $8 (seniors & students, $6). 994–2095.*

"A Few Good Men": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Nick Gaza: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Friday Night Swing: Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. *Every Friday.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring hard-soled shoes. Preceded by intermediate (7:15 p.m.) and beginning (8 p.m.) lessons. *8:45–11:45 p.m., Dakota Building, 1785 W. Stadium. $5 (includes lessons). 945–8428.*

FILMS

Waters Place Borders. "Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium" (Zach Helm, 2007). Delightful family film about a magical toy store and its quirky owner. Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman. FREE. 997–8884. Borders (3140 Lohr Rd.), 7 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Young at Heart"** (Stephen Walker, 2008). *May 2–15.* Uplifting documentary about a senior citizen chorus that performs classic and contemporary rock songs, from James Brown to Sonic Youth. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans,

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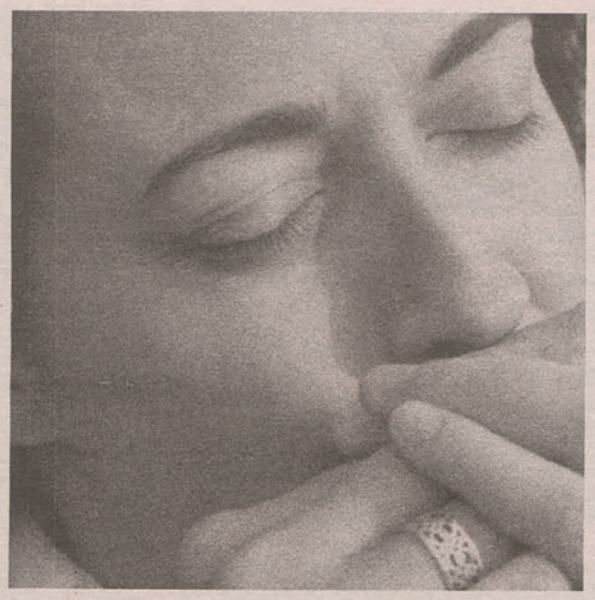
singer-songwriters

Trina Hamlin

Minnesota blues



The only time I've seen Trina Hamlin perform live was last summer in Glen Arbor, near Traverse City. It was an outdoor concert on a hot, humid, muggy night, and she walked onstage barefoot. Given the unpredictable nature of spring in Michigan, it may be too cold for her to do that when she returns to the Ark this month. But then maybe she's always that informal and relaxed. One of the photos on her most recent CD, *Living on Love,* features a shot of her bare left foot stepping on a guitar effects pedal.

The picture might also be an expression of one of the central elements of Hamlin's live shows, her sense of humor. (The cover of the CD shows her, head thrown back, laughing uproariously.) Though her songs are for the most part not humorous, Hamlin's comic timing on her between-songs patter is as solid as her musical sense of rhythm. The night I saw her, she regaled us with, among other droll yarns, a long running gag about her summer touring in a van with a tomato plant that didn't set fruit, because of a lack of cross-pollination.

There is, however, no lack of cross-pollination in Hamlin's music. Though she hails from Minnesota—which she insisted, tongue in cheek, was a hotbed, if not the birthplace, of the blues—her voice, singing style and songwriting are colorful hybrids that sprout from blues, rock, jazz, and a number of other contemporary idioms but are uniquely Hamlin. She can go from gutsy blues belting to long, jazzy, vibratoless horn tones, and then roll in a warm vibrato at will. She sings mostly her own well-crafted, beautifully arranged love songs, but her covers of classics like Linda Ronstadt's "You're No Good" or Paul McCartney's "Oh! Darling" can stand proudly next to the originals.

You can't talk about Hamlin for long before you have to say something about her harmonica playing. One of the T-shirts she sells at her concerts has a simple question printed on it, "Got harp?" Onstage Hamlin answers that unequivocally. The lady's got harp. She can play country blues style in a rack, adding another soulful voice to her own while accompanying both on her guitar, and she can squeeze a hand-held harp right up against a microphone and get that just-distorted-enough raw Chicago blues sound.

Another of Hamlin's T-shirts features a picture of a nightstand and the words "one night stand." Though she'll be at the Ark for only one night this month—Friday, May 2—it's unlikely this will be a one-night stand between her and her first-time or longtime fans. More likely, it will be another rendezvous in an ongoing love affair.

—Sandor Slomovits

2 FRIDAY *continued*

$6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

3 SATURDAY

★**"Sunrise Saturday Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Saturday.* Very slow-paced 22-mile ride to Dexter for breakfast. Begins at sunrise. *6:37 a.m. (May 3), 6:18 a.m. (May 10), 6:11 a.m. (May 17), 6:05 a.m. (May 24), & 6:01 a.m. (May 31), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 665–6327, 913–9851.*

"Bird Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. *May 3 & 24.* Naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a morning hike to look for birds in a variety of habitats and record their locations. Bring binoculars and a field guide. *7:30 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170, 426–8211.*

★**"Spa Days": Plum Market.** *May 3 & 4.* An opportunity to make a potpourri satchel, blend bath salts, and create essential oil blends. Also on May 3, chair massages, Bach flower and facial consultations, computerized spinal assessments, and more; and on May 4, nail painting, make-up applications, shaving advice, and more. All materials provided. *8 a.m.–10 p.m. (May 3) & 9 a.m.–10 p.m. (May 4), Plum Market, Maple Village. Free. 827–5000.*

Flea Market & Garage Sale: Washtenaw Farm Council. Formerly the "Bigger Than Texas" sale, this giant community garage sale features a wide range of items. Also, vendors sell antiques, jewelry, garden art, and more. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Admission $2 (kids 12 & under, free). Booth rentals for sellers: $75. 429–3145.*

★**"Dexter Breakfast Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Saturday.* Beginner-friendly slow-paced (22 miles) and moderate/fast-paced (30 to 80 miles) round-trip rides to the Dexter Bakery. A very popular ride. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone or change for a phone call, and snacks. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St., or at Barton Park, Huron River Dr. Free. For information, call 994–6340 (May 3 ride), 662–0205 (May 10), 994–3001 (May 17), 646–4978 (May 24 & 31).*

★**Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division.** *May 3, 10, 17, & 25.* All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Also, city staffers lead a short nature walk at the end of each workday. Snacks & tools provided. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. Today: a trip to **Greenview Park** to plant bulbs and spread wood chips. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Greenview Park sign across from Barnard Rd. on Greenview Rd. (off Scio Church Rd. west of S. Seventh St.). Free. 996–3266.*

28th Annual Spring Plant Sale: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. *May 3 & 4.* Show and sale of over 1,000 plants, including herbs, ferns, vines, corms, roses, grasses, bushes, rushes, creepers, climbers, dainty woodland flowers, festive baskets, rock garden plants, and sun-loving, shade-loving, and medium-light-loving plants. Highlights include a dizzying variety of clematis, irises, hostas, and scented geraniums. Sale of tools, fountains, sundials, trellises, hanging baskets, and more. Plant experts on hand to offer tips and answer questions. Also, free talks. May 3 topics: **wildflowers** (10 a.m.), **rain barrels** (10:30 a.m.), **dahlias** (11 a.m.), **heirloom vegetables** (11:30 a.m.), **principles of good design** (noon), **alternative ground covers** (12:30 p.m.), **gladioli** (1 p.m.), **native plants** (1:30 p.m.), **prescribed backyard burns** (2 p.m.), **tuberoses** (3 p.m.), and **edible container gardening** (3:30 p.m.). May 4 topics: **garlic mustard removal** (12:15 p.m.), **alternative ground covers** (12:45 p.m.), **"Companion Planting in a Vegetable Garden"** (1:30 p.m.), **ikebana** (2 p.m.), and **rain barrels** (2:30 p.m.). Note: There's a members-only preview show and sale (May 2, 3–7 p.m.), with $45 memberships available at the door. *9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (May 3) & noon–4:30 p.m. (May 4), Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 647–7600.*

★**"T'ai Chi Ch'uan at the Cube."** *Every Saturday & Sunday.* Local t'ai chi instructor Chad Eisner leads a session of these slow meditative movements for beginning and advanced practitioners. *9 a.m., U-M Cube, between the Union and the SAB. Free. 930–2747.*

★**Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad: Ann Arbor Public Schools.** All invited to watch local elementary students compete in events such as soda-bottle rocket launching and aluminum foil barge building to test their scientific knowledge. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 662–5497.*

★**Walk: Grex.** *Every Saturday (different locations).* All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Nature Area (May 3) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (May 10, 17, 24, & 31). *10 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Nature Area (May 3) and in Gallup Park parking lot (May 10, 17, 24, & 31), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 741–9351.*

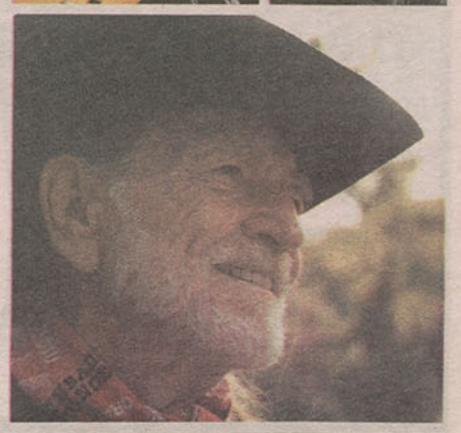
★**10th Annual Garlic Mustard Weed-Out Day: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation.** All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff remove garlic mustard that's invading the woodlands in city parks. Dress for outdoor work; minors must be accompanied by a guardian or obtain a release form in advance. Followed by a **Weed-Out Day BBQ** (2–4 p.m.) at the Island Park pavilion. Burgers, buns, condiments, & beverage provided. Bring a dish to pass or anything you'd like to have grilled. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Argo Nature Area (meet in the parking lot north of the Argo Canoe Livery off Longshore Dr.), Bird Hills Nature Area (meet at the Bird Rd. entrance), Black Pond Woods Nature Area (meet in the Leslie Science Center parking lot, 1831 Traver Rd.), Cedar Bend Nature Area (meet at the Island Park parking lot on Island Dr. off Maiden Lane), Hannah Nature Area (meet at the end of Bath St., west of Seventh between Huron and Miller), Huron Hills Golf Course Woods (meet on Hunting Valley off Provincial Dr.), Huron Parkway Nature Area (meet at the park steward's house at 3470 Woodland Rd. off E. Huron River Dr.), Lakewood Nature Area (meet at Lakewood Elementary School parking lot off Gralake, 3 blocks south of Jackson), Leslie Science & Nature Center (1831 Traver Rd.), Redbud Nature Area (meet at the entrance at the intersection of Jeanne & Parkwood north off Edgewood from Platt), & Sunset Brooks Nature Area (meet at the park entrance on Sunset at the end of Brooks). Free. 996–3266.*

60th Annual Spring Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. *May 3 & 4.* A very popular annual sale held outdoors under a big tent. Includes a wide variety of functional and decorative regular and white stoneware, porcelain, and raku ceramics by members and students at this esteemed nonprofit cooperative, in operation since 1949. Also, a supervised kids clay play area and a low-price kids sale table with toys, pots, animals, jewelry, and other items made for kids. Rain or shine. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Potters Guild parking lot, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663–4970.*

2008 Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Festival: Jugglers of Ann Arbor. Jugglers of all ability levels invited to join jugglers from around Michigan and beyond for a day of freeform juggling and workshops. Events include games, yo-yoing, Frisbee manipulation, a sale of juggling items, and more. Also, participants are expected to gather on the U-M Diag for open juggling on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon. *Note:* Attendees 17 and under need a parent-signed waiver. *10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wide World Sports Center indoor soccer field, 2140 Oak Valley Dr. $1. 248–990–8084.*

★**Downtown Home & Garden Spring Lecture Series.** *May 3 & 10.* Today: Vandenberg Bulb Company (Howell) sales rep Tom Kraft discusses **"Patio Gardening Herbs, Vegetables, and Flowers."** Also this month: local master gardener Gwen Reynolds discusses **"Gardening with Kids"** (May 10). *10 a.m.–1 p.m., DH&G, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

★**"Make a Mother's Day Card": Ann Arbor District Library.** *May 3 & 4.* All kids from preschoolers to 3rd-graders invited to make a Mother's Day card. Supplies provided. *10 a.m.–noon (May 3), AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (be-*



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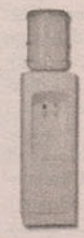

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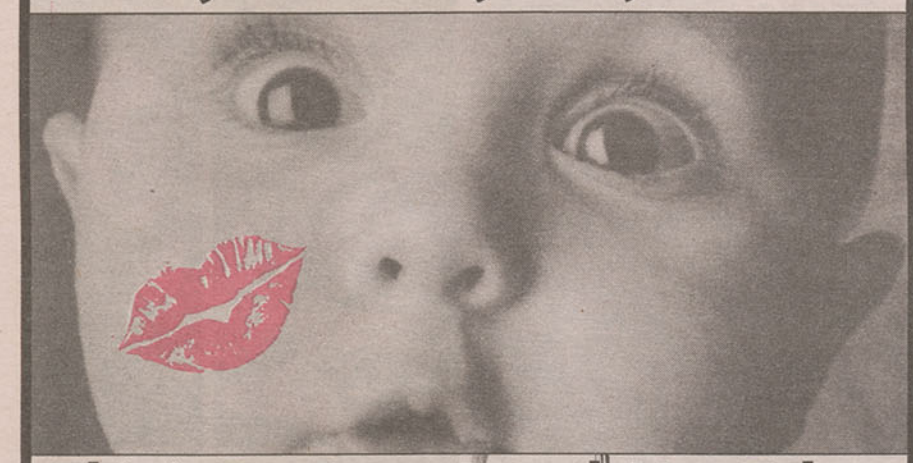

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3 SATURDAY *continued*

tween Stone School & Packard); & 2–4 p.m. AADL youth story center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4200 (May 3), 3227–8301 (May 4).

"Sciencepalooza": Hands-On Museum. *May 3 & 4.* A popular monthly exhibit in the concourse area with hands-on experiments and activities. This month's program: **"The Science of Art."** *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (May 3) & noon–4 p.m. (May 4), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $7 (members & infants, free) regular admission. 995–5439.*

★**Gray Panthers of Huron Valley.** Ann Arbor Public Schools superintendent Todd Roberts and school board member Glenn Nelson discuss **"Ann Arbor Millage Renewals: The May 6 Election."** Also, **Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative** representatives discuss the program and its progress. Followed by discussion. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

★**6th Annual Physics Olympiad: U-M Physics Department.** Area high school teams battle in this fun, creative competition that involves a variety of contests: For **"Laser Maze"** (4265 Randall, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students build a mirror-maze for a laser with the laser turned off. In **"Submarine"** (1221 & 1233 Randall, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students calculate the amount and type of ballast needed to achieve neutral buoyancy for a small plastic submarine. In **"Solar Hybrid Wheels"** (1224 & 1261 Randall, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students build a solar-electric hybrid car. In **"Glider Shootout"** (Dennison Math Atrium, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students build and flight test model gliders. In **"Supercollider"** (location TBA, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students simulate a colliding-beams experiment with pucks. In **"Dueling Catapults"** (Dennison lawn, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students hurl water balloons up to 60 feet. The event concludes with a **quiz bowl** (170 Dennison, 3–4 p.m.) and **awards ceremony** (170 Dennison, 4–4:30 p.m.). *10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Randall, 450 Church, & Dennison, 500 Church. Free. 764–3443.*

★**Storytime: Nicola's Books.** *Every Saturday.* Storytelling program for kids under age 7. *11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Season Opening: Rentschler Farm Historic Museum. Opening day for this century-old Queen Anne farmhouse and garden, now a museum depicting early-20th-century farm life with tours, barn exhibits, and animals. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., Rentschler Farm, 7640 E. Michigan Ave. Donation. 769–2219.*

★**"Astronomy 101": Waterloo Recreation Area.** Park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh leads a family-oriented hands-on introduction to viewing and studying the skies. *11 a.m. & 2 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

★**Free Comic Book Day: Get Your Game On.** All invited to compete in a **Magic: The Gathering tournament** ($25 includes cards) using Shadowmoor, the brand-new edition of this popular collectible card game, and to play 2 hot new video game releases, **Wii Mario Kart** and **Grand Theft Auto IV.** All participants get a free comic book. Free food. *11 a.m.–10 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

"The Sky Tonight"/"Origins of Life": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday. The Sky Tonight* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. *Origins of Life* (12:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about the prebiotic chemistry of the Universe after the Big Bang, the formation of the stars and solar systems, the first life on Earth, the great extinctions, and the search for extraterrestrial life. Followed by a brief star talk. *11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $4.75. 764–0478.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Saturday.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $5 per player; free for spectators. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 449–4300.*

★**Children's Storytime: Waters Place Borders.** *Every Wednesday and Saturday.* Borders staff read from picture books and books for babies, infants, and toddlers. Today: stories about **mothers**. Also this month: **Children's Choice Award** finalist books (May 10) and stories about **friends** (May 17), **local heroes** (May 24), and **America** (May 31). Wednesday topics TBA. *10 a.m. (Wed.) & noon (Sat.), Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★**"Garlic Mustard Pull": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** Naturalist Faye Stoner leads a search-and-destroy mission against this aggressive invasive plant. Bring gloves and (on May 24) bug spray. *Note:* Stoner also leads garlic mustard pulls on May 7 (6–8 p.m., Miller Preserve, Parker Road dead-end at Dexter-Chelsea Road in Dexter), May 14 (6–8 p.m., Kosch Headwaters Preserve, 3268 North Prospect Road, 1/4 mile south of Ford Road in Ypsilanti), May 17 (11 a.m.–1 p.m., Kosch Preserve, and 1–4 p.m., Burns-Stokes Preserve, Zeeb Road at the Huron River just south of Huron River Drive) and May 24 (1–4 p.m., Leonard Preserve, meet at the dead end of Union Street north off Main west of M-52, Manchester). The May 17 program at Burns-Stokes Preserve is preceded at 11 a.m. by a hike to look for green dragon, a relative of jack-in-the-pulpit. *1–3 p.m., Parker Mill County Park (May 3), Geddes Rd. (just east of US-23). Free. 971–6337.*

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *Every Saturday & Sunday.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $7 (members & infants free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★**"Spring Has Sprung at Springhill": Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.** All invited to join a hike to enjoy spring wildflowers. Preceded at 1:15 p.m. by socializing. Refreshments. *2 p.m., meet at 3401 Berry Rd. (just south of Ford Rd.), Superior Twp. Free. 484–6565.*

★**Beltaine Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join local neopagans for this ancient Celtic holiday that celebrates fertility. Raffle. Preceded by a predawn journey to Big Lake, the source of the Huron River. *2–5 p.m., Botsford Recreational Preserve, 3015 Miller Rd. (just west of the M-14 overpass). Free. 697–2514.*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Saturday.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. *2–4 p.m. Free. 761–1115.*

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** *Every Saturday & Sunday.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

"Treasure Island": Wild Swan Theater. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka": Pioneer High School Theater Guild. See 2 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

★**Ultimate Frisbee: Ann Arbor Ultimate.** *Every Saturday (tentatively).* All invited to join a pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *Note:* Overly aggressive players are politely asked to leave. *2:30 p.m., Fuller Field. Free. info@a2ultimate.org*

Kids Drum Circle: Oz's Music. All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $10. 662–8283.*

★**In Good Company African American Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Joplin's Ghost,*** Tananarive Due's novel about an up-and-coming R&B singer whose bizarre, erotic encounters with what may be the ghost of Scott Joplin seep into her music and force her to rethink her calling. *4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 657–5448.*

★**Children's Movie: Arborland Borders.** *Every Saturday.* Kids (accompanied by a parent) invited to bring teddy bears and watch a family film TBA. Popcorn. *6 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

"WineFest 2008": Ann Arbor Art Center 26th Annual WineFest. *May 2 & 3.* This ritzy wine tasting also features live and silent auctions, a cigar tent with hand-rolled cigars, and a strolling supper, and usually draws more than 600 people. Also, rare wine, champagne, port, sherry, and cognac specialty bars, with a chance to win precious and semiprecious gemstones. Preceded at 11:30 a.m. at Zingerman's Roadhouse by **"A Taste of American Foods"** ($25 lunch, $19 wine pairings) with Zingerman's owner Ari Weinzweig (reservations required at 663–3663) and at 2 p.m. by a $40 **wine tasting** at the Art Center. The festivities begin at Whole Foods Market at 2:30 p.m. on May 2 with a **"Cooking Fresh Seafood"** ($35) demo and talk by Blue Canyon Kitchen executive chef Brandt Evans and **"Stars at Your Table"** dinners ($200) served in 4 private homes at 7:30 p.m. *6 p.m., Ypsilanti Marriott, 1275 S. Huron, off I-94 exit 183. Tickets $135 in advance only. 994–8004, ext. 101.*

"Girls Night Out!": Jewish Community Center. All girls ages 5–10 invited for a program of primp-

The Mother Truckers

Existential country rock

The name gets your attention, but if it gives you the idea that the Mother Truckers play aggressive roadhouse punk, or country music of the black-and-blues-obsessed 1930s, when "Can't Nobody Truck like Me" was a Texas hit, you're headed in the wrong direction. Instead the Mother Truckers begin with the harder edges of contemporary country music—especially Dwight Yoakam's mixture of traditional honky-tonk and rock psychedelia. Yoakam has always had a strong following in the San Francisco Bay Area, the original base of operations for the Mother Truckers' core members, Teal Collins and Josh Zee.

Like Yoakam, for whom they have opened, Collins and Zee are fully capable of holding off on the psychedelia and performing older country styles straight. Their tortured, unflinching songs of relationship hell owe something to Merle Haggard; there's a lot of pedal steel in the songs on their last album, *Broke, Not Broken*; and their harmony singing is pure traditional stuff. Yet all of the foregoing could be said of a number of roots bands in Austin, to which the Mother Truckers relocated about three years ago. It used to be that country rock bands made the opposite migration, but at this point for them to have risen to the top of the Austin scene is an impressive accomplishment. They've done it by adding a new dimension to rock-inflected country music: a dimension that might be called existential.

It's a bit unexpected to hear couplets like "I guess that puts us in an awkward position/Ain't no one escapes the human condition" ("Passing By Again") or even "We cast a shadow in the sun/For a moment, and then it's done" ("Shadows") in a country song. A traditionalist might say that good country music raises issues like these without being explicit about it, but the Mother Truckers have a couple of answers to that. First, the singers they use as their models have sometimes seemed to reach for abstractions when they could. "Life began to twist its way around him," wrote Haggard (for whom the Mother Truckers have also opened). More important, the Mother Truckers give themselves fully to their lyrics. There isn't a bit of artifice in their performances, which are reputed to have a very high energy level in concert.

The Mother Truckers are following Yoakam's trajectory in another way as well: they're touring with a new album that's said to rock harder than its three predecessors. They'll be at the Ark on Monday, May 5.

—James M. Manheim

ing, singing, and dancing, followed by dinner and screening of ***Enchanted,*** a 2007 Disney musical about a fairy tale princess who gets transported to the real world. *6:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $24 (JCC members, $20). Reservations required. 971–0990.*

"Boys Night Out!": Jewish Community Center. All boys ages 5–10 invited for a program of futuristic games and crafts, followed by dinner and a screening of ***Meet the Robinsons,*** a 2007 animated Disney movie about a time-traveling orphan. *6:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $24 (JCC members, $20). Reservations required. 971–0990.*

"Celebration of Innovation and Excellence": Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation. Tours of the new Skyline High School and an opportunity to learn about innovative programs in Ann Arbor public schools. Also, Bob Galardi, recently retired deputy superintendent for administrative services, is given the 1st annual Award for Innovation and Excellence. Light meal with beverage provided. *7 p.m., Skyline High School, 2552 N. Maple Rd. Tickets $50 in advance at aapsef.org, $60 at the door. 994–1969.*

"Salon": Dreamland Theater. A hair-themed art exhibit with live performances by local electropop singer-songwriter **Charlie Slick,** performance artist and musician **Howard's Dilemma,** and the local electronic ensemble **Outlet.** Also, a puppet show, live haircuts & styling, and other activities. Attendees encouraged to dress in drag. *7 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St. Ypsilanti. $5. 657–2337.*

"An Evening of Laughter": Concordia University Arts. Headliner is **Ken Davis,** a Christian stand-up comic and motivational speaker. Opening is **Chrissy Burns** (see 30 Friday listing), a local comic whose performance tonight draws on her experience as a 3-time cancer survivor to promote the healing power of laughter. Preceded by a VIP hors d'oeuvres reception with Davis. *7 p.m., Concordia University gym, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Tickets $20 & $35 ($50 VIP ticket includes priority seating and the preshow reception) in advance and at the door. 995–4612.*

★Ceciliana Trio: Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Soprano **Katherine DeBoer,** a University of Nevada-Reno music professor, and flutist **Rebecca Carson Rogers,** director of the St. Gaudens Concert Series in Cornish, New Hampshire, are joined by Bethlehem United Church of Christ organist **Gail Jennings** for performances of works by Donizetti, Telemann, Rameau, Massenet, Corigliani, Bach, and organist Jennings, along with a commissioned work by Gwyneth Walker. *7:30 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free; donations accepted. 665–6149.*

Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club. *May 3 & 17.* Glen Geer calls square dances for experienced dancers to recorded music. No partner necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes (not tennis shoes). *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. $5. 433–0308.*

First Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Contra dancing with caller John Freeman and music by the Scalar Scalawags. No partner needed; all dances taught. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (members, $8; students, $5). 662–9290.*

"Breakin' Curfew": University Musical Society/Neutral Zone. *See "Really Big Show," Up Front, p. 9.* Popular variety show featuring local and area teen performers, including the Detroit female rapper **Lady Te,** the **Dance Ensemble of Michigan,** the **Ann Arbor Trombone Choir,** the hip-hop ensembles **Stop 156** and **Royal Fam,** *guzheng* (an ancient Chinese string instrument) player **Chang Li,** the Pioneer High School classic rock band **42nd Parallel,** folk guitarists **Speech Bubbles** and **Demyan,** the 2008 Ann Arbor **Youth Poetry Slam** team, the jazz octet **Eight Lords A Leapin',** French horn player **Samu Rast,** classical pianist **Ivan Moshthuk,** the experimental jazz piano ensemble **Strexx,** classical guitarist **Corey Roberts,** dramatist **Annemarie Friedo,** DJ **Kyle Hall,** and vocalists **Chiavvona Bigham, Molly Epstein, Morgan Mingerszyniszewski,** and **Dorothy Yarrington.** *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $16 (students, $10 in advance at the Neutral Zone and $12 in advance at the Michigan League box office & at the door). Reservations recommended. 214–9995.*

Josh White Jr.: The Ark. Known for his powerful, intense singing and his virtuosity on 6–string and 12–string guitars, White sings in a more modern style than his famous folksinger father. His blues, gospel, and folk repertoire includes many of his father's best-known songs as well as several upbeat, inspirational originals. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). See 2 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Taming of the Shrew": Huron High School. See 2 Friday. 8 p.m.

"A Few Good Men": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

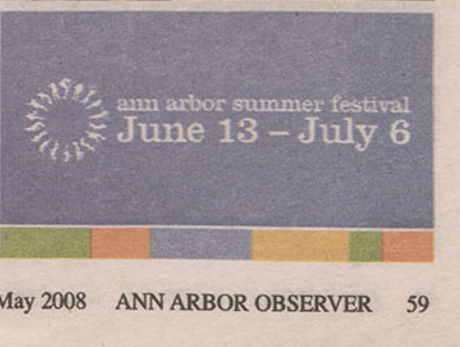
"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Nick Gaza: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. *May 3, 10, & 31.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *8:30 p.m. (May 3) & 8:45 p.m. (May 10), & 9 p.m. (May 31) until 12:30 a.m. or as long as the sky remains clear, Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.*

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. *May 3 & 17.* High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ.



Do you really know who you are?

Tracing Your Roots

Free Genealogy Seminar at Washtenaw Community College

Friday, June 13, 2008 | 9 a.m. – Noon
Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building
Washtenaw Community College

Regional experts give tips on how to research your family tree including: Knowing what resources are available and how to use them, weaving through immigration records, using the Internet and much more.

Please reserve your free spot by June 6 by calling (734) 973-3379 or emailing **lrosser@wccnet.edu**

Washtenaw Community College

This event is sponsored by the Richard W. Bailey Library at Washtenaw Community College.

PRIMAVERA AT PALOMA GALLERY*

SURFACE MATTERS:

canvas, fiber, and stone

May 9 - June 1, 2008

Opening Reception:
Friday, May 9
6:00-10:00pm

Jones • Quigno
Thompson • Underwood

PALOMA GALLERY
500 Detroit Street, Ann Arbor, MI, tel. 734.213.3575
Gallery hours: Sat & Sun, 11am-4pm, & by appointment

*Enjoy hundreds of blooming tulips in the gardens!

Measure for Measure©
A Men's Choral Society
Steven Lorenz – Conductor

19th *Annual Spring Concert*

Sunday. May 11.2008 3:00 P.M.

Hill Auditorium
Ann Arbor. Michigan

Tickets:
Adults: $18 Seniors: $14 *Call for special group rates*
Students/Children under 12: $7
Tickets at the door or call **734.649.7664**
Visit us at **www.measure4measure.org**

CITY OF ANN ARBOR MICHIGAN

Seasonal Curbside Compost Collection Program

Resident-provided 30-35 gallon compost cans will no longer be serviced after June 30, 2008. Ann Arbor solid waste curbside-serviced residents will be able to continue to place acceptable yard waste into paper bags or bundled branches for weekly collection. The city is selling optional 96-gallon Compost carts for residential use.

Ann Arbor residents may preorder and prepay $25 by May 31, 2008 for a 96-gallon wheeled compost cart, home-delivered in June.
After May 31, compost carts cost $50 and are not delivered.

Compost cart information is available online at
http://www.a2gov.org/carts
or from the city's Customer Service Center,
220 E. Huron, **(734) 994-2807.**

galleries

William Christenberry: Photographs, 1961–2005

Picturing the old South

"?Do You Believe in Jesus I Do!" A rusty found sign sporting this run-on sentence—with its playful punctuation and jaunty hand-painted font—hangs next to a picture of itself in the U-M Museum of Art Off/Site. The sign and the photograph, taken by William Christenberry, reflect the exhibit's documentary candor. In a collection of photographs taken between 1961 and 2005, Christenberry, an Alabama native, chronicles the passage of time and the effects of age and weathering on his favorite subjects: the simple wooden structures, graveyards, and signs of rural Alabama.

For some of these shots Christenberry uses a Kodak Brownie, an inexpensive, square-format box camera simple enough for a child to use. This doesn't surprise me when I reflect on the childlike simplicity of his most ubiquitous composition: the front of an old building situated directly in the center of the frame and surrounded by the rurality of fields, woods, or deserted downtowns. Shot from such a straightforward vantage point, these photographs function almost like children's drawings. The buildings are triangles on top of squares in a closed, often square frame. Nothing strays outside the image except more field, more dirt road, more woods. In their simplicity and repetition, they beg you to take in the small details—the rusty tin roof lying peacefully in front of the house it belonged to, a kudzu vine growing into an open door.

Most of these hauntingly lonely images lack people. In fact, the entire collection includes only one human portrait. An older, tired-looking woman sits on a tattered wooden porch with a tan paper Winn-Dixie grocery sack at her feet, a subtle reminder that plastic bags never caught on here, and some folks still think Dixie might win.

Though this woman made the egg carton flowers in the image hers, those aren't the only Styrofoam handicrafts Christenberry documents. Another image captures kitsch at its most heartbreaking and sincere: an egg-carton cross decorated with pink plastic flowers marks the head of a gravestone.

With quiet attention to common details, Christenberry's work captures broken, rustic beauty. But to me, a native Arkansan, it also smacks of southern clichés. Collectively, these images create a portrait of the deep South that walks a fine line between old-fashioned and backwards—between woodsy and backwoodsy. They document certain truths about the South: there *are* kudzu vines, crumbling old buildings, Styro-crafts, and illiterate people. I just hope these aren't the only southern truths circulating up in these parts.

The sole image acknowledging racism—a southern cliché whose exposure remains imperative—hangs in a (tellingly) marginal space next to some folding chairs and a dark hallway. It depicts a squat building called "The Underground Railroad." With dead leaves and a half-fallen marquee in the foreground, it isn't the most beautiful tableau in the exhibit, but it might be the most poignant.

The exhibition continues through Sunday, June 1.

—Katie Whitney

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 West Liberty. *Potential!* (May 16–June 20). Reception 17 Saturday, 3–5 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library, Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 East Eisenhower Parkway. *Portraits of Dandia Dhamaka by Sue Finley* (May 2–June 15). 327–4510.

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 220 East Ann. *Michigan Nature* (opens May 1). 995–5439.

Chelsea Gallery, 115 South Main, Chelsea. *Works by Martha Ceccio* (May 3–June 24). Reception 3 Saturday, 6–9 p.m. 475–1008.

Dreamland Theater, 26 North Washington, Ypsilanti. *Salon* (May 3–31). See 3 Saturday, 7 p.m. 657–2223.

EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, East Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall. *Works by Linda Baum* (May 5–9). *Works by Patrick Green* (May 12–16). *Works by Jia Liu* (May 19–23). 487–1268.

EMU University Art Gallery, 900 Oakwood. *New Fibers 2008* (May 6–June 12). Reception 6 Tuesday, 4–7 p.m. 487–0465.

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Road. *Paintings by Debra Golden and Photography by James Breck* (May 1–31). 665–6158.

Gallery 55+, 2401 Plymouth Road. *Works by Marilyn Marsh and Connie Cronenwett* (through August 1). Reception 17 Sunday, 4–5:30 p.m. 998–9354.

Gallery Project, 215 South Fourth Avenue. *Painting 2008* (May 14–June 22). Reception 16 Friday, 6–9 p.m. 997–7012.

Intermedia Gallery, 900 Oakwood. *Works by Jennifer Stucker* (through May 2). *Works by Melissa Machnee* (May 5–16). 528–3933.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 North Fourth Avenue. *Sue Schooner: Soliloquies of Space* (through May 30), 769–2999.

Paloma Gallery, 500 Detroit Street. *Surface Matters: Canvas, Fiber, and Stone* (May 9–June 1). Reception 9 Friday, 6–10 p.m. 213–3575.

Portofino Coffee Shop, 2550 West Stadium Boulevard. *Duct Tape Art* (May 1–June 30). 222–6066.

River Gallery, 120 North Main, Chelsea. *Chelsea School District Student Art Show* (through May 4). *Works by Jaye Schlesinger* (May 10–June 1). Reception 10 Saturday, 4–8 p.m. 433–0826.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron, Ypsilanti. *Fourth Annual Docent Exhibition* (May 8–31). Reception 10 Saturday, 5–7 p.m.

U-M Duderstadt Center Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel. *The Art of Healing: Explorations of Women's Health* (May 2–16). Reception 2 Friday, 5–8 p.m. 764–0397.

U-M Museum of Art Off/Site, 1301 South University. *William Christenberry: Photographs, 1961–2005* (through June 1). See review, above. 763–UMMA.

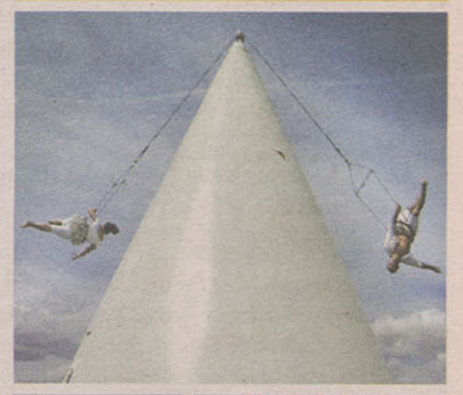
U-M Special Collections Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, seventh floor. *Algernon Charles Swinburne: A Radical Victorian* (May 19–August 22). 764–9377.

U-M Work, 306 South State. *Book Festival Posters* (May 13–18). 998–6178.

Washington Street Gallery, 306 South Main. *Works by Gudrun von Funch, Thomas Nolden, and Susanne Hofler* (May 13–June 22). Reception with live music by vibraphonist Dizzy Krisch, 14 Wednesday, 7–9 p.m. *Gatherings* (May 24–June 22). Reception 14 Wednesday, 7–10 p.m. 761–2287.

Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 North Huron, Ypsilanti. *The Underground Railroad* (through October 31). 482–4990.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2007–2008 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.



3 SATURDAY *continued*

No partner necessary. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., danceRevolution, Dakota Bldg., 1785 W. Stadium. $5. 945–8428.*

Johnny O'Neal Trio: The Firefly Club. Full-bodied blues- and gospel-inflected jazz by an ensemble led by this veteran Detroit pianist and vocalist known for his blend of technical virtuosity and interpretive sensitivity. O'Neal has played with the likes of Milt Jackson, Art Blakey, and Wynton Marsalis, and he appeared as the legendary pianist Art Tatum in the acclaimed Ray Charles biopic *Ray*. Tonight's show is an **Oscar Peterson tribute.** His trio includes 2 local jazz luminaries, drummer Pete Siers and bassist Paul Keller. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets $12 at the door only. 665–9090.*

FILMS

MTF. "Young at Heart" (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

4 SUNDAY

★Annual Potawatomi Trail Hike: Sierra Club. All invited to join club members for a 17-mile hike through hilly glacial terrain sprinkled with lakes. Bring a sack lunch and water. Canceled if it rains. *8 a.m., meet at City Hall. Free. 483–0058.*

★"A2Sunday Runners": Two Dogs Running. *Every Sunday.* All invited to join informal runs of 5–7 miles along various scenic routes. *8:30 a.m., meet at Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, Kerrytown. Free. 657–0214.*

29th Annual Burns Park Run: Burns Park PTO. Around 1,000 people ages 5–85 attend this popular family affair. This year's event offers 5-km and 10-km chip-timed races, a 5-km walk along the beautiful tree-lined streets of the Burns Park area, and a half-mile kid-popular "fun run" around the park. Awards for overall and male & female winners in both races, male & female masters, male & female grand masters, and male & female top 3 per age group. Trophies and local coupons for first place, latte mugs for 2nd and 3rd, and trophies or medals for kids by grade level. Also, raffle prizes from local merchants. Free postrace brunch. This year's special guest is triathlete and Olympic swimming gold medalist **Sheila Taormina**, who plans to achieve an Olympic first this year by competing in 3 different sports. Bring your own chip or borrow one from race organizers. Proceeds benefit Burns Park PTO programs. *8:30 a.m. (5-km events), 8:40 a.m. (10-km run), & 10 a.m. (fun run), Burns Park, 1414 Wells. Entry fees: $15 (12 & under, $12.50) for the 5-km & 10-km events & $5 (fun run) by May 2; $5 extra after May 1. Entry forms available at burnsparkrun.org. 747–6952.*

★Falun Gong. *Every Sunday.* Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. *8:30–10:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 834–4978.*

★"Sleeker Senile Century Series": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Fast-paced 100-mile and moderate-paced 62-mile rides to shape up for the riding season. Also, at 9 a.m. a slow-paced 22-mile ride leaves from Wheeler Park. *9 a.m., meet at the down-*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Whose responsibility is it to maintain and repair the public sidewalks and walkways?

A: Per City Code, Chapter 49, Section 4:58, all sidewalks within the City shall be kept and maintained in good repair by the owner of the adjacent land.

Q: How do I report a sidewalk that needs repair? How can I check if my sidewalk needs repair?

A: You simply talk with the City's Customer Service Center at **(734) 994-2818**. This call will trigger a request to the Technical Services Unit for a sidewalk inspection. If repairs are needed, the City will notify the property owner by letter of the specific requirements to bring the sidewalk into compliance.

Q: What if the sidewalk damage appears to be caused by tree roots?

A: Please call **(734) 994-2818** to initiate an inspection by a staff person from forestry and/or the Technical Services Unit to see if a problematic root can be removed without endangering the stability and health of the tree. The property owner is still responsible for the sidewalk repair costs.

Q: Why doesn't the City make the repairs and bill the owners?

A: When contractor's perform work for the City there is additional costs for the contractor for Bonding, Insurance and the requirement to pay prevailing wages. Based on our Customer Service Survey we found the average cost for a 4" slab for homeowner's in 2005 was $130. The City cost for a 4" slab in 2005 was at least $170

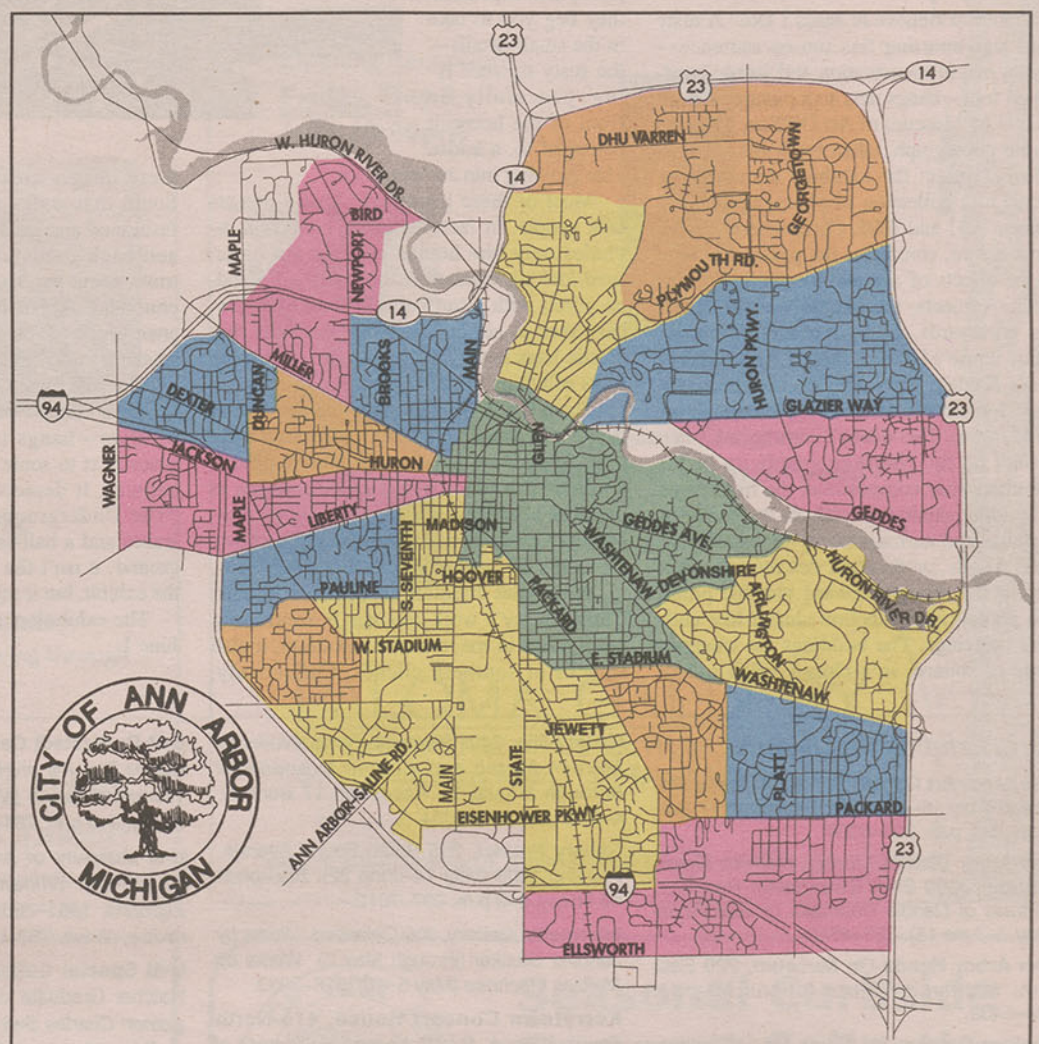
Q: If I don't make the repairs what will the City charge me?

A: The City will make the repairs and pass on all associated costs. In 2005, that would have been a minimum of $170 per slab plus project costs, which were $225 per address..

Q: Why doesn't the City find the contractor for the owner?

A: Based on our Customer Service Survey we have implemented a Contractor Pre-Qualification process. The contractors on the list will be instructed by the City on the procedures of sidewalk repair within the City of Ann Arbor. Contractors will also be rated on their performance by the City and the Customer Service Survey. The ratings will allow us to remove or add contractors based on City and owner experiences.

CITY OF ANN ARBOR
SIDEWALK REPAIR
PROGRAM



SIDEWALK INSPECTION SCHEDULE

The City of Ann Arbor has implemented an annual sidewalk repair program to improve the walk-ability of the sidewalks throughout the City. The program will inspect all sidewalks in accordance with the schedule shown on the map. The annual program does not eliminate the citizen request procedure. If you would like to make an inspection request, you may call (734) 994-2818 or send an e-mail to: Sidewalkrepair@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us

SIDEWALK REPAIR & REPLACEMENT PROCEDURES:

1. Property owners or contractors may obtain the specifications and standards for sidewalk repair from the City's **Community Services Area, located on the Sixth Floor of City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Avenue.**
2. If you plan to do the repair yourself, contact the Community Services Area to obtain a right-of-way permit to work within the public right of way 48 hours prior to the work; you must submit certified proof of insurance in the amount of $100,000.
3. If you plan to have a contractor do the work, have them obtain a right-of-way permit from the Community Services Area 48 hours prior to starting work. In order to be granted the permit, the contractor must submit a certified proof of public liability insurance in the amount of $500,000.

THREE REASONS TO REPAIR YOUR PUBLIC SIDEWALK:

1. Children, the elderly, and the physically challenged use our sidewalks daily. Poorly maintained sidewalks carry high risks for injury. Your help is appreciated to make sure all residents may travel safely along our sidewalks.
2. City Code (chapters 47 and 49) requires property owners to properly maintain the sidewalks and public walkways adjacent to or abutting their property for use by the public.
3. Properly maintained sidewalks decrease your liability and enhance the overall aesthetic image of our City.

Property owners may verify that a contractor has a permit by calling the Community Services Area at (734) 994-2674 at least one day before work begins. Hint: Multiple property owners working together may receive lower prices from a contractor.

More information is available on the City's website at: www.a2gov.org/sidewalk

Jimmy Scott

Unearthly sounds

Although he sings a traditional kind of jazz, Jimmy Scott's singing is an extreme thing. Most immediately unusual is its range: Scott was born with Kallmann syndrome, which prevented his voice from changing. The voice is often described as a soprano or alto, but those terms are a bit misleading—it's unmistakably male even if it lies an octave above other male voices. Also striking is Scott's treatment of rhythm, which resembles that of a edgy jazz instrumentalist: he hangs way back from the beat, rushes ahead of it, suspends phrases in midair by compressing them unexpectedly, and in a dozen other ways performs a musical high-wire act. His diction is way beyond merely clear: he has a choice of attacks for each consonant, to be deployed in the service of insight into a song's text.

So there's daredeviltry, and a definite exotic component. But Scott's music is never flashy, and it fits in fine at New York's supper clubs. His repertoire is the one that prevailed during the first phase of his career in the 1940s and 1950s: Gershwin, some Rodgers and Hart, and, more unusually, some intensely felt spirituals. Scott's virtuosity is of the precise kind, executed quietly, with a tone of vulnerability that expresses itself in delicacy and detail.

Those qualities have kept Scott's art not only viable but consistently intensifying as he enters his seventh decade of performing. Born in 1925, he started out in Lionel Hampton's big band. About five feet tall, he was known as Little Jimmy Scott. One of his early champions was Ray Charles, who himself began his career with a quiet, high-pitched, rather mysterious kind of vocal jazz. Scott recorded several now hard-to-find albums for the Savoy, Tangerine, and Atlantic labels and then dropped out of sight for a while, working as an elevator operator in his native Cleveland. He resurfaced in the 1990s, providing his distinctive sound for various alternative rock artists and releasing solo albums. His voice has lost the capacity for silvery stretches of vibrato, but that was only one of its many sounds to begin with, and now, at age eighty-two, he has a burnished, uncannily soulful instrument that seems to exist in its own special realm.

Jimmy Scott comes to the Ark, in a concert the club is copresenting with the Michigan Theater Foundation, on Friday, May 9.

—James M. Manheim

4 SUNDAY *continued*

town gazebo, Dexter. Free. (248) 324–1879 (100-mile ride), 426–4989 (62-mile ride), 996–8079 (22-mile ride).

★**Marathon Training Run: Tortoise and Hare.** 10- and 20-mile training runs over a well-marked course, with aid stations along the way. Post-run refreshments. *9 a.m., Tortoise and Hare, 2631 Plymouth Rd. Free. 623–9640.*

★**29th Annual Show 'n' Shine Car Show: Ypsilanti Area Street Rods.** This annual exhibit contains around 450 slick street rods, sleek muscle cars, and elegant antique autos in a rainbow of colors. 50s and 60s music spun by a DJ. Also, muffler rapping contests, in which parked street rodders stomp on the gas to see whose engine is most deafening. Games. Food vendors. Preceded on May 3 by kickoff party (6–9 p.m.) that concludes with a flame throwing contest. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Riverside Park near Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free; donations appreciated. 485–3136, 484–3644.*

★**"Celebrate Israel Festival": Jewish Community Center.** This family-oriented festival celebrating Israel's 60th Independence Day begins with an Israeli breakfast, a talk about Israeli culture, and a yoga session led by Rachel Portnoy. Also, a children's community chorus and other entertainment TBA, along with children's activities led by local teens. Glass artists Danny Katzir and Gail Kaplan lead a hands-on project to create a mosaic commemorating Israel's 60th year of independence. Vendors offer Israeli art, clothing, and other merchandise. A variety of food. All invited. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to join a chanting meditation. *10–11 a.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495, 678–7549.*

★**Meditation: Tsogyelgar Dharma Center.** *Every Sunday.* Traktung Yeshe Dorje leads a silent sitting, followed at 11 a.m. by Tantric meditation. *10 a.m., Tsogyelgar Dharma Center, 7145 W. Liberty. Free. 663–3842.*

★**Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry.** *Every Sunday.* Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. *10–11:30 a.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477–5848.*

★**"Sunday Tandem Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Slow/moderate-paced ride, 30–40 miles, to either Grass Lake or Munith for a restaurant meal. Tandem bikes encouraged but not required. *10 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (231) 828–4483.*

★**Ultimate Frisbee: H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to a very relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *10:15 a.m., Mitchell Field. Free. 846–9418.*

★**"Song Sermon": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Uplifting original songs and world music-flavored improvisations by this local acoustic trio led by Gemini singer-songwriter Laz Slomovits, who plays guitar, fiddle, and folk flutes. With Laz's wife Helen Slomovits on harp and silver flute and Drummunity percussionist Lori Fithian. Followed by a Cinco de Mayo potluck lunch; bring a dish to pass. *10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free; donations accepted. 971–8576.*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sunday.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: Owens Community College (Toledo) vice-president for college advancement Gary Detling discusses **"Why We Say What We Say."** Also this month: a **planning meeting and potluck** (May 11), First Presbyterian member Mary Bennett discusses the adult day care center **The Oaks** (May 18), and First Presbyterian member Dee Valvanis discusses Lillian Hellman's memoir about the McCarthy era, ***Scoundrel Time*** (May 25). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

★**First Presbyterian Church Adult Education.** *May 4, 11, & 18.* Today: Kalamazoo College religion professor Waldemar Schmeichel discusses **"Cultural Influences of the Creation Story."** Also this month: **"Quantum Leaps of Faith"** (May 11 & 18), a series of talks by former NASA scientist Michael Bodner on the relationship between science and theology. All invited. *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Lewis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

Artisan Market. *Every Sunday.* Show and sale of fine crafts, jewelry, soaps, furniture, fiber arts, and gift items. Also, live music TBA. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers' Market. Free admission. 665–2009.*

★**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Hillside Terrace, 1939 Jackson. Free. 769–5911.*

Contact Improv. *Every Sunday.* All invited to try this interactive, freeform dance style that involves contact with one or more partners. It can involve improvisational lifts and other experimentations with gravity. You might find yourself upside down, so dress appropriately for easy movement. No partner required; beginners welcome. (The 1st Sunday of each month begins with an hour of formal instruction.) Followed by discussion and socializing. *1–3 p.m., The Mind Body Spirit Academe, 1785 W. Stadium. $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

Cooking Sessions: Kitchen Port. *May 4 & 18.* Cooking demos and talks. Today: Master gardeners Merrill Crockett and Rita Hermann discuss **spring herb gardens**. Also this month: Christine Nguyen shows how to prepare **"Pad Si-Yu"** (May 18), a noodle dish similar to pad Thai. *1–2 p.m., Kitchen Port, 283 Zeeb Rd. $8. Preregistration recommended. 665–9188.*

Tour: Kempf House Museum. *Every Sunday except May 25.* Twenty-minute guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, named for the family of German American musicians who occupied it at the turn of the 19th century. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Admission $1 (children under age 12, free). 994–4898.*

Magic: the Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Sunday, Monday, & Wednesday.* All invited to compete in a tournament using the Legacy (Mondays) and standard constructed (Wednesdays & Sundays) editions of this popular collectible card game. Bring your own cards. *1 p.m. (Sun.) & 6 p.m. (Mon. & Wed.), Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. $5. 786–3746.*

★**"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Jazz Showcase: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Jack Wagner and Paul Finkbeiner direct 6 student combos in a program of jazz standards, blues, and big band music. *1–3 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. Free. Donations accepted. 995–4625.*

"Seussical the Musical": Theatreworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series). This renowned New York City–based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present a lavishly staged production of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty's Tony-winning musical adaptation of Dr. Seuss stories. When chaos erupts in the Jungle of Nool, it takes the Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, and a gaggle of other characters to bring harmony back to the world. The engagingly eclectic score includes pop, gospel, blues, Latin, and R&B tunes. Theatreworks' origins date from 1961, when *Young Abe Lincoln* became the first young people's musical to play on Broadway. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $14 (MTF members, $12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Tour: Zingerman's Creamery. *Every Sunday.* Zingerman's cheesemaker John Loomis leads a tour of the facility where Zingerman's cheeses are made. *2 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. $5. 929–0500.*

★**Talk & Tour: Sunward Cohousing.** *Every Sunday.* A resident gives a short talk about Sunward Cohousing, which consists of condos designed to foster an old-fashioned sense of neighborhood and to preserve open space. Followed by a tour. *2 p.m., Sunward Cohousing, 424 Little Lake Dr. Free. 930–6425.*

"Living with Massasaugas": Waterloo Natural History Association. Using live snakes, herpetologist Yu Man Lee introduces the massasauga rattlesnake, Michigan's only poisonous snake, and discusses the natural history and ecology of several Michigan snakes. She also offers tips on how to attract or discourage snakes around your property. *2–3*

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4 SUNDAY *continued*

p.m., Eddy Discovery Center (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. $2 (family, $5; WNHA members, free). Space limited; preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.

★**"The Memory in the Mirror: Daughters Reflecting on Motherloss": Ann Arbor District Library.** Arbor Hospice Grief Support Services director Maryjane Bottonari leads a discussion for women of ways to include their mothers in the legacy they create in their own lives. *2–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Kerry Tales: Fine Flowers for Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as "Mother Goose." *2 p.m., Hollander's, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Kerrytown. Free. 769–3115.*

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *2–3 p.m., Oz's, 1922 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.*

★**"Making Up with Mom: Why Mothers and Daughters Disagree about Kids, Careers, and Casseroles (and What to Do about It)": Waters Place Borders.** Local freelance journalist **Julie Halpert** and Rutgers sociology professor **Deborah Carr** discuss their new book. Signing. *2 p.m., 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★**Crossroads Summer Festival.** Several Ypsilanti businesses have gotten together to host a weekly outdoor stage with a variety of dance bands that runs June through August. Today's kickoff show is a Cinco de Mayo preview that is headlined by **Tumbao Bravo** (6:30–8 p.m.), a local Cuban jazz quintet led by saxophonist and flutist Paul VornHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif. With pianist Sven Anderson, bassist John Barron, and Javier Barrios on timbales. The set is preceded by Latin dance lessons by Club Divine instructor Chad Brown. Also in the lineup: **The Horse Cave Trio** (2–3:20 p.m.) is a local group led by veteran singer-bassist Ron Devore that plays blues-fueled rockabilly. **Tracy Mack** (4–5 p.m.) is an acoustic blues-flavored folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Tracy Kash Thomas** (5–6 p.m.) is a Detroit jazz singer-songwriter, a member of the all-female quartet Lorelei, who plays flute and piano. Also, street puppet shows by Dreamland Theater, a cupcake walk with free cupcakes for kids, display of the Jose Cuervo Showcar, raffles & giveaways, and more. Food vendors. *2–8 p.m., Washington St. at Michigan Ave. Free. 717–7305.*

★**Fair Isle String Quartet: St. Clare's Episcopal Church Chamber Series.** This local professional ensemble performs Gershwin's *Lullaby,* Haydn's String Quartet no. 4, and Beethoven's String Quartet no. 1. Members are violinists Molly Hughes and Maria Bucco, violist Connie Markwick, and cellist Stefan Koch. *2 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church. 2309 Packard. Free; donations accepted. 662–2449.*

"Treasure Island": Wild Swan Theater. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka": Pioneer High School Theater Guild. See 2 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"A Few Good Men": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"For the Bible Tells Me So": St. Clare's Episcopal Church.** Screening and discussion of Daniel G. Karslake's 2007 documentary about stigmatization of the gay community by the religious right. *3 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. 662–2449.*

★**Grand Opening Celebration: Wellness Community of Southeast Michigan.** A chance to sample such TWC services as yoga, t'ai chi, nutrition education, and meditation. Live music by the popular local honky-tonk band **George Bedard and the Kingpins.** Refreshments. *3–5 p.m., TWC Center, 2010 Hogback Rd. Free. 975–2500.*

"Goldilocks and Red Riding Hood vs. the Monsters": Dreamland Theater. *May 4, 18, & 25.* This twist on traditional fairy tales by puppeteer Naia Venturi finds the two classic heroines teaming up against an ogre, a giant, and a dragon. *3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. $5 (children age 3 & under, free). 657–2337.*

"A Genealogy of Composers": Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. Warren Puffer Jones directs this polished semiprofessional local ensemble in a program tracing a line of composers teaching students who became prominent composers themselves, beginning with

James Galway performs at Hill Auditorium May 10.

Italian Baroque composer Giacomo Carissimi and ending with Aaron Copland. The program also features choral works by Cherubini, Saint-Saens, and Faure. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. $10 in advance (students, $8) & $12 at the door (students, $10). 996–8867.*

★Student Dance Company: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. Modern dance performances by Arts in Motion students. Followed by a chance to visit the studio's new music room. *4–7 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk (off Eisenhower between Industrial and S. State). Free. 222–6246.*

★Ann Arbor Morris Dancers. *Every Sunday.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance said to have originated a millennium ago as a pantomime of war between Moors and Crusaders. Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., location TBA. In case of rain, under the Dental School overhang, 1011 North University. Free. 747–8138.*

"A Circle of Drums": Drumwomyn. *Every Sunday.* All women invited to gather for a drumming session. Bring your own drum. *7–8:30 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 913–9670.*

★U-M Life Sciences Orchestra. Clinton Smith conducts this ensemble of musicians from the U-M medical and life sciences staff in a program featuring U-M music professor Michael Daugherty's *Asclepius,* originally commissioned for the opening of the U-M Cardiovascular Center. Also, Barber's Adagio for Strings, Copland's *Billy the Kid Suite,* and Respighi's *Pines of Rome. 7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free; donations accepted. 936–ARTS.*

Geoff Muldaur: The Ark. A former member of the Jim Kweskin Jug Band, Muldaur is a veteran country blues singer-guitarist known for his elegant, idiosyncratic interpretations of traditional material like Leadbelly's "Alberta" and Sleepy John Estes's "Someday Baby," along with originals like "Got to Find Blind Lemon." *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

U-M Ballroom Dancers. *Every Sunday except May 25.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Ballroom (May 4, 11, & 25) & Pendleton Room (May 18). $3. 763–6984.*

FILMS

Melange Subterranean Bistro. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner." *Every Sunday.* Dinner (salad, entree, & dessert) followed by screening of a movie. Menu items range from $5 to $30. Space limited; reservations recommended. 222–0202. Tonight: ***Juno*** (Jason Reitman, 2007). Comedy about the relationship between a pregnant teen and the couple she has chosen to adopt her baby. Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman. Melange (314 S. Main), 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "Young at Heart"** (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

5 MONDAY

★"Back Roads Ramble": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Monday.* Slow-paced ride, 12–35 miles, along dirt and gravel roads to Independence Lake and other low-traffic destinations. *9 a.m., meet at 960 Forest Rd. (off Country Club Dr.), Barton Hills. Free. 761–2885, 663–5060.*

★"Monday Chelsea Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Monday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 35–45 or 55–65 miles, to either the Munith or Stockbridge area. *9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 285–6830.*

★Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. *Every Monday (except May 26).* Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, **Bible study** and **chair exercises.** Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch ($1) and socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

★Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. The chorus presents its spring concert on May 9 (see listing). *10 a.m.–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($100 per semester membership dues for those who join). 213–3770, 663–5907.*

★Knitting/Crocheting Women's Group: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Monday.* All senior women age 50 & older invited to join others for knitting/crocheting and fellowship. Bring your own supplies. *11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Monday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular tile game. *1–2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Table Game Day: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play games like bridge, chess, tile rummy, and Skip-Bo. *1–3 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★"Paved Roads Country Roads Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Monday.* Fast-, moderate-, and slow-paced training ride, 18–24 miles, along country roads west of town. *5:30 p.m., meet at Royster Clark, 885 Parker Rd. at Pine Cross Lane (just south of Jackson Rd.), Scio Twp. Free. 426–5116.*

★"Smoothie King Recovery Ride": Ann Arbor Velo Club. *Every Monday except May 26.* Cyclists invited to join club members on this moderate-paced ride, 15–20 miles, down Huron River Drive to Dexter and back. *6 p.m., meet at Smoothie King, 222 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 827–2792.*

"A Course in Miracles": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Monday.* All invited to join a group reading and discussion of this popular Foundation for Inner Peace metaphysical book. *6:45–8:45 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327–0270.*

★"The Civilized Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Monday except May 26.* Slow-paced ride, 12–18 miles, to Dexter, with a possible stop for ice cream. *7 p.m. sharp, Wellington Park, Alice at Bruce St. (off Arborview from Miller). Free. 213–2908.*

★"Herbs along the Road": Evening Herb Study Group. Talk by club member Madeline Kaminsky. *7 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens room 125, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 459–8454.*

★"Fertilizer Basics: Why Organics, What Organics": Whole Foods Market. Talk by MaineStream Organics co-owner Veronica Sanitate on environmentally safe fertilizers. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom. Free. 975–4500.*

★Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus. *Every Monday except May 26.* Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. *7–9:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free. 973–6084.*

★Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Corrine Hillebrand. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 213–3172.*

Dream Group. *Every Monday except May 26.* All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. *7:30 p.m., 215 N. Seventh St. Donation. 662–5925.*

Sheketak: Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County. This Israeli troupe of 3 dancers, drummer, and percussionist presents **"From Hora to Hip-Hop,"** a Riverdance-style showcase of a variety of Israeli dance styles. *7:30 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $36 & $40 (youths & students, $24) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone: 763–TKTS. Information: 971–0990.*

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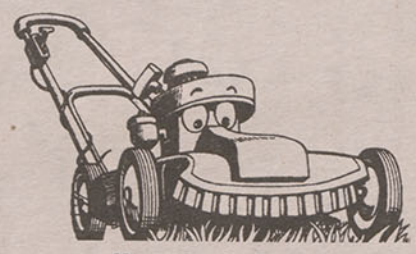

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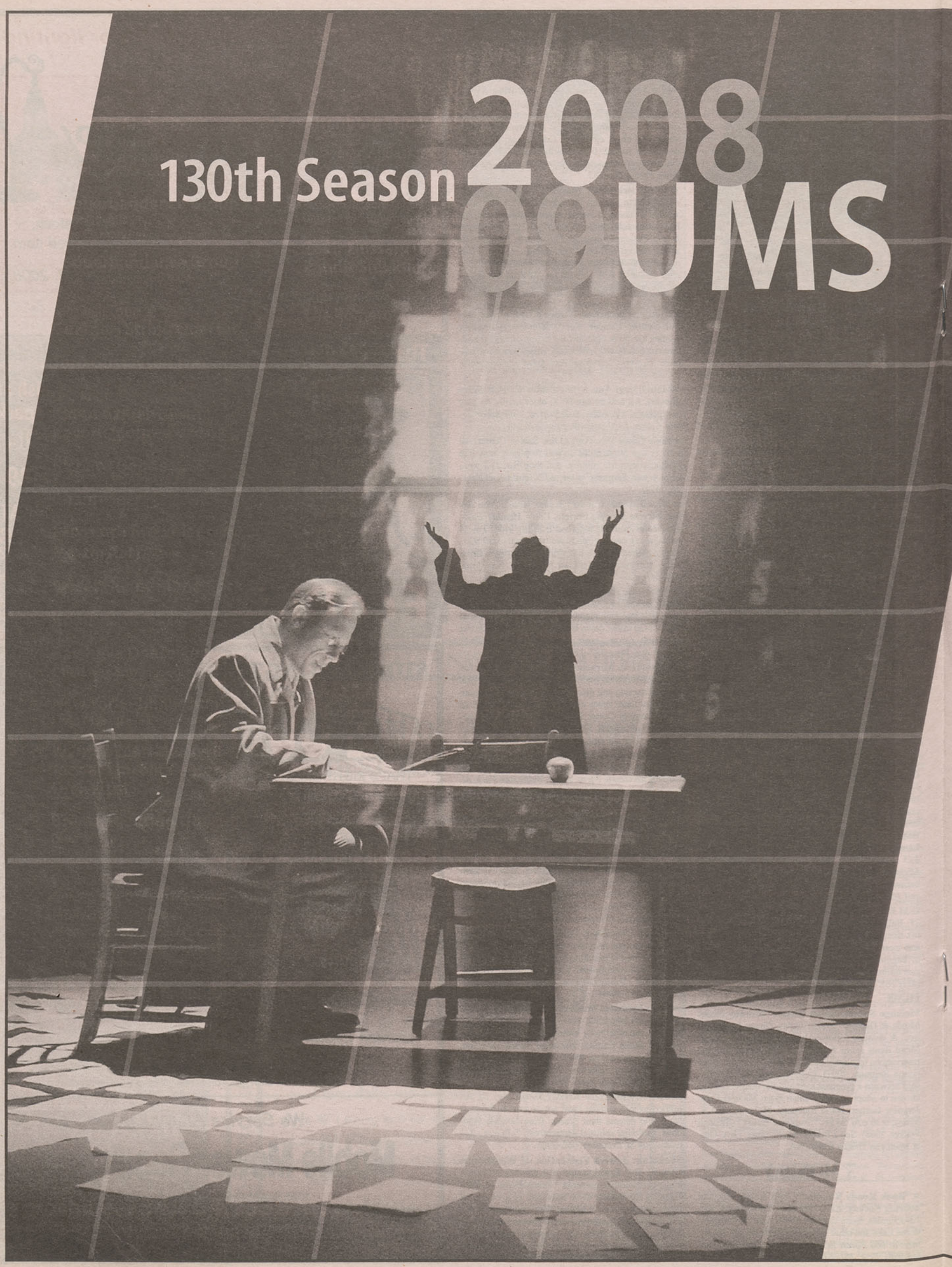

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5 MONDAY *continued*

★Motor City Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. *Every Monday except May 26.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *8–10 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). 474–1155.*

The Mother Truckers: The Ark. *See review, p 59.* Named Best Roots Rock Band at the 2007 Austin Music Awards, this exhilarating Austin-based alt-country-rock band is led by the San Francisco-bred husband-and-wife duo of singer-songwriters Josh Lee and Teal Collins. "The Mother Truckers . . . only needed to play their southern-fried version of AC/DC's 'TNT' to win me over, but they sealed the deal with rumbling country-rock burners, epic steel slide-heavy anthems ('If I Die'), and the tongue-in-cheek ballad 'We Were Getting High,' all of which showcased the magnificent vocal harmonies of Josh Zee and Teal Collins, who can belt out the twang with the best of 'em," writes *Metro Santa Cruz* reviewer Mike Connor. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Monday.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

FILMS

MTF. "Young at Heart" (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

6 TUESDAY

★Ann Arbor School Board and District Library Elections. Two candidates are running for one 4-year term on the 7-member nonpartisan Ann Arbor school board, and 5 unopposed candidates are running for one 2-year and four 4-year terms on the 7-member Ann Arbor District Library board. (For more information about these races, see Inside Ann Arbor, p. 11.) There are also ballot proposals to renew both the school district's operating millages on homestead and nonhomestead property and its 1-mill sinking fund tax for capital expenses. To vote in the election, you must be registered to vote in the city of Ann Arbor or in one of the surrounding townships that are included in the Ann Arbor school district. *Polls are open 7 a.m.–8 p.m. Applications for absentee ballots are due by 2 p.m. on May 3 at the county clerk's office. For information, call 222–6730.*

★Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tuesday & Wednesday (different locations).* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *9:30–11:30 a.m. (Tues.), Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower), & 12:45–3:45 p.m. (Wed.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tuesday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular word game. *10 a.m.–noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★"The Bible in Its Time: An Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East": Jewish Community Center. *Every Tuesday (except May 20), May 6–June 3.* Lecture series by U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies visiting scholar Lisbeth Fried. *10 a.m.–noon, JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. *Every Tuesday.* Activities begin at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, followed at 1 p.m. by a chance to play **mah-jongg, cards,** and **board games** or join **quilting** and other craft projects. Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop. *Every Tuesday.* Shaman Drum staff read picture books for kids ages 2–6. *11:30 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★"Tuesday Evening Birders": Washtenaw Audubon Society. *Every Tuesday.* WAS members Lathe Claflin and Mike Sefton (May 6 & 13) and city ornithologist Dea Armstrong (May 20 & 27) lead evening walks at various local birding sites. Bring binoculars and (if you have one) a scope. *6 p.m., meet (tentatively) at the Miller Rd. Park & Ride off M-14. Free. 994–3569, 668–2513.*

★"Huron River Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Tuesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 18–40 miles, to Dexter and back. *6 p.m., meet at Rudolf Steiner School, 1655 Newport Rd. Free. 662–0205.*

★"Big Sky Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Tuesday.* Moderate-paced ride, 20–35 miles, along flat, relatively quiet picturesque roads south of Ann Arbor. *6 p.m., meet at York Baptist Church, 1220 Stony Creek Rd. at Platt. Free. 971–5763.*

★Joan Bauer: Nicola's Books. This award-winning New York novelist discusses ***Peeled,*** her young adult novel about an aspiring teenage journalist who uncovers the truth behind a ghost story in her own small town. Signing. *6 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. *Every Tuesday.* All knitters invited to bring their current projects to work on and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945–3035.*

U-M Softball vs. USA Softball. Exhibition game. *7 p.m., Alumni Field (behind Ray Fisher Stadium), S. State at Hoover. $4 (youths age 12 & under, $2; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

★Common Thread. *May 6 & 20.* All invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7–9 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★Mothers and More. *May 6 & 15.* Discussion group for moms who have adjusted their careers to spend more time with their children. Today: a group discussion on **"Motherhood and Career."** Also this month: a group dinner (May 15). *7–9 p.m., locations TBA. Free. 527–6880.*

"70% Rendez-Vous": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff discuss and offer taste samples to compare a variety of gourmet dark chocolates. *7–8 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $15 in advance, $20 (if available) at the door. Space limited; reservations recommended. 663–3354.*

★"The History of Religion in Politics": Ann Arbor Area League of Women Voters. Talk by First Unitarian Universalist Church minister emeritus Ken Phifer. Refreshments. All invited. *7–9 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 663–1664.*

"Odyssey to Freedom": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Tuesday.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. *7–8:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). $10 (students & seniors, $5). 994–3387.*

★"Losing Control: Loving a Black Child with Bipolar Disorder": Shaman Drum Bookshop. Beverly Hills, Michigan, children's health advocate **Cassandra Joubert** reads from her memoir about her struggle with her daughter's mental illness. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★Ann Arbor Area Writers Group: Arborland Borders. *Every Tuesday.* All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., Borders computer section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tuesday.* Historical and traditional English dancing. Today: Ray Bantle and Marty Wilson call to music by Childgrove. Also this month: callers Bronwen Gates and Shirley Harden with music by David West, Donna Baird, Brad Battey, and Betsy Foote (May 13), callers Bantle and Don Theyken with music by Childgrove (May 20), and callers Gates and Arlene Kindel with music by West, Baird, and Susie Lorand (May 27). All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Dress comfortably and bring flat, non-slip shoes (running shoes OK). *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $7 (students, $4; children age 13 & under, free). 665–7704.*

★Sweet Adelines County Connection. *Every Tuesday.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($20 monthly dues for those who join). 480–8843.*

★Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA. *Every Tuesday.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance. For information, call Greg Humbel at 445–1925.*

★Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus. All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. The chorus presents its spring concert on May 10 (see listing). *7:30–9 p.m.,*

West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($80 per semester membership dues). 213–3770.

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *May 6 & 20.* Today: club members show their traditional and digital slides on various topics, including **"Panoramas."** Also this month: members show their recent prints (May 20). *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School Media Center, 1655 Newport Rd. Free ($15 annual dues for those who join). 327–4781.*

★**"Beelogue": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America.** Local farming apprentice and novice beekeeper Maggie Wright discusses her experience at Gunther Hauk's holistic beekeeping workshop that she is attending at Spikenard Farm in Illinois. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 485–3764.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***Elena Sabe,*** Claudia Pineiro's novel about a woman with Parkinson's disease who tries to solve the mystery of her daughter's death. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Jazz Concert: Greenhills School.** Neil Donato conducts Greenhills student jazz ensembles in a program TBA. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 769–4010.*

War: Live Nation. Pioneering L.A.-based fusion ensemble, led by singer-organist Lonnie Jordan, that first gained prominence in the early 1970s as Eric Burdon's backup band. Their songs are known for their utopian racial and class politics and their music for its invigorating improvisational jams that blend jazz, rock, funk, Latin, and R&B dance idioms. Their hits include "Low Rider," "Spill the Wine," and "Slippin' into Darkness." Opening act TBA. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $25–$75 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** *Every Tuesday.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 665–2931.*

Grand Slam Finals: Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. The top finishers in last month's semifinals—**Matt Ernst, Matt Digger, Chris Moriarty, Mike Moriarty,** and **Logic**—compete tonight for the 2008 Ann Arbor Grand Slam championship. The top 4 Grand Slam finishers receive cash prizes and will be the Ann Arbor team at the 2008 National Poetry Slam, held this year in Madison in August. Also, open-mike readings. *8 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. $5 (students with ID & members, $3). For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451.*

Dave Boutette and Chris Buhalis: The Ark. Double bill showcasing 2 popular veteran local singer-songwriters. Boutette's genial folk-rock songs about the small ups and downs of ordinary life draw on a range of influences from Chuck Berry to Paul Westerberg, and Buhalis sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country songs about ordinary American life. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Firefly Funnies": The Firefly Club. Showcase of top local stand-up comics, along with some improv comedy. *8–11 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. $3. 665–9090.*

★**"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar.** *Every Tuesday.* All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. *10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222–9999.*

FILMS

MTF. "Young at Heart" (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

7 WEDNESDAY

★**"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders.** *Every Wednesday.* Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: Kate McMullan's ***I'm Bad!*** and Jeremy Tankard's ***Grumpy Bird***. Also this month: Pauline Malinen's ***Teddy Bear's Picnic*** and Lezlie Evans's ***The Bunnies' Picnic*** (May 14), Emma Dodd's ***What Pet to Get?*** and Kate Banks's ***Max's Dragon*** (May 21), and Don Freeman's ***Corduroy*** and ***A Pocket for Corduroy*** (May 28). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

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7 WEDNESDAY *continued*

★Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Wednesday.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabblers. *Every Wednesday.* All invited to join local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. Note new location. *5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084.*

★"West Side Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Wednesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 22–25 miles, and a slow-paced ride, 13–18 miles, to the Dexter Dairy Queen and back. Now in its 30th year, this ride is a favorite with newcomers and casual riders. *6 p.m. sharp, meet at Sweepster parking lot, 2800 N. Zeeb Rd. Free. 426–5116 (longer ride), 665–4552 & 761–2659 (shorter ride).*

★"Saline Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Wednesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 30 miles or more, south to Milan and then west to the area around Britton-Macon. *6 p.m., meet at municipal parking lot on Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. south of Michigan Ave., Saline. Free. 645–5840.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wednesday.* Each 2-person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

★Huron Valley Model Builders. All invited to join a show-and-tell discussion. Bring your models built from scratch or from kits, including cars, tanks, boats, airplanes, spacecraft, figures, and more. *7 p.m., Lakeview Mobile Home Park clubhouse, 9910 Geraldine (off Bunton south of Textile Rd.), Ypsilanti Twp. Free. 481–1044.*

"Cinco de Mayo Tequila Annual Tasting": Eve Restaurant. Eve Restaurant staff member Ari Sussman discusses and offers taste samples of a variety of artisanal tequilas, accompanied by fiery, flavorful tapas. "Always a convivial night, to say the least," organizers promise. *7 p.m., Eve, Kerrytown. $50. Preregistration required. 222–0711.*

★"Same Road, Same Rules?": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month." Panel discussion on the coexistence on local streets of cars and bicycles. With representatives from various city departments, the Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce, the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society, and others. Q&A. *7 p.m., DDA conference room, 150 S. Fifth Ave., suite 301. Free. 214–0100.*

★Leif Enger: Waters Place Borders. This best-selling novelist discusses ***So Brave, Young, and Handsome***, his saga set in 1915 about an aging train robber and fugitive heading west to reconcile with the wife he abandoned 20 years earlier. Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★Elizabeth Ellen and Kim Chinquee: Shaman Drum Bookshop. Readings by these 2 Michigan fiction writers. Ellen, an Ann Arborite whose work has appeared widely on the Internet and in journals and anthologies, reads from ***Sixteen Miles Outside of Phoenix,*** her chapbook collection of lyrical, gritty short stories about reckless women, cold-shouldered men, unsupervised children, and other boldly wayward characters. *Sixteen Miles* is included in *A Peculiar Feeling of Restlessness,* a new collection of 4 short fiction chapbooks by women. "Thanks to her lack of pretension, her focus on detail, and her willingness to explore the ugly stuff without judgment, Elizabeth Ellen's stories take nothing characters, nowhere towns, and turn them into something extraordinary," says *Pindeldyboz* literary magazine editor Whitney Pastorek. Chinquee, a CMU creative writing professor, reads from ***Oh Baby: Flash Fictions and Prose Poetry,*** her new collection of deftly constructed prose poems and very very short stories (known as "flash fictions") about failing relationships, childhood friendships, and the intricacies of family life. "One of the most thrilling things about reading Kim Chinquee's beautifully tiny stories is the great leaps that she takes between sentences—making a world of brief glimpses and bits of dialogue that are full of narrative implications, a world of perfectly chosen details that render the understated emotion of a character's whole life," says acclaimed novelist Michael Kimball. Signings. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★"Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps 75th Anniversary Celebration": Ann Arbor District Library. Escanaba musician and storyteller **Bill Jamerson** presents a program of stories and song about the work of the more than 100,000 young men who enlisted in the Michigan branch of the CCC during the Depression to plant trees, restore riverbanks, and make other natural improvements around the

state. Also, a showing of a short clip from Jamerson's award-winning PBS film ***Camp Forgotten: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Michigan.*** *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central Depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council. *Every Wednesday.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 214–2755.*

★"Poetry Night": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. *May 7 & 21.* Tonight: poetry readings by EMU creative writing grad students, including **Bill Barr, Barry Graham, Gregory Heaney, Jamie Jones, Sarah Smarch,** and **Amandine Williams-Abraham.** *7:30–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. *Every Wednesday.* All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, *Theosophy. 8–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485–3764.*

"Chili's Comedy Dojo": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Fast-paced show featuring stand-up comedy by 15 recent graduates of veteran comic and *Tonight Show* writer Chili Challis's Comedy Dojo. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wednesday.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Brian Aherne hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Wednesdays @ Michigan Union: Swing Ann Arbor. *Every Wednesday.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by beginning Lindy (6:30 p.m.), intermediate swing (7 p.m.), progressive Lindy hop (8 p.m.), and beginner East Coast (9 p.m.) lessons. *9:30–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room (occasionally Ballroom or U-Club). $5 (includes lessons). 945–8428.*

FILMS

MTF. "Young at Heart" (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

8 THURSDAY

★Horse Shows: Hunter Jumper Association of Michigan. *May 8–11, 15–18, & 22–25.* English riding and jumping competitions at the state level. Highlights include junior and amateur riding shows on Saturday afternoons and junior and amateur jumping shows at 1 p.m. each Sunday. *8 a.m.–5 p.m., Waterloo Hunt Club, corner of Glenn at Katz (west off Mount Hope Rd. from I-94 exit 150), Grass Lake. Free. 561–723–6287.*

"Flower Arranging": Ikebana International Chapter 183. Chapter president Nabuko Sakoda leads a session of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Call to find out what equipment to bring. *1 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). $10 (members, $5) materials fee. (248) 685–7696.*

★"Women's Salad and Dessert Dinner": Dixboro United Methodist Church. All women invited to bring a salad or dessert to pass for this potluck. *6:30 p.m. DUMC, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. Reservations requested. 665–5632.*

★"Detoxify!": Whole Foods Market. Talk by local chiropractor Shannon Dicks. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

"Bocks & Trappists": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about more than 2 dozen bock beers from around the world, including Arbor Brewing's celebrated Terminator Doppelbock, as well as malty rich bocks, doppelbocks, and Belgian Trappist ales. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

★"Car-Lite, Car-Less: How We Commute to Work": Ann Arbor District Library/Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month." Panel discussion with local commuters Ed Vielmetti, Scott Munzel, Tamara Real, and Alaine Karoleff. Q&A. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★"Latin American Social Movements in the 21st Century: Resistance, Power, and Democracy": Shaman Drum Bookshop. EMU political science professor Richard Stahler-Sholk reads from and discusses his new book. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": Chelsea Area Players Youth Theater. *May 8–10.* Ty Jacobs directs young local actors in Shakespeare's delightful comic fantasia about the dispute between the king and queen of the fairies, and the more or less unfortunate mortals caught in their mischief. For this performance, Jacobs has adapted the language for a younger cast. *7 p.m., Washington Street Education Center Auditorium, 500 Washington St., Chelsea. Tickets $15 (students, $10) in advance at the Chelsea Pharmacy, at chelseaareaplayers.org, and at the door. 274–2498.*

★History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join a discussion of ***Five Centuries of Map Printing***, a 1975 collection of essays exploring the map as material culture edited by David Woodward. Refreshments. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

Luke Sayers and Stewart Francke: The Ark. Double bill. The former bassist for the Ferndale folk-rock band Tangerine Trousers, Sayers has emerged in his own right as a talented singer-songwriter whose music draws on blues, jazz, country, and folk to create contemporary songs with a sharp emotional bite. His band, the Last to Know, is a quartet that includes other members of the Trousers, and he has a new CD, *Radio Flower,* that features new originals and a great cover of Johnny Cash's "Worried Man." Francke is a veteran Detroit singer-songwriter who writes thoughtful, well-crafted contemporary blue-eyed soul songs. His latest CD, *Motor City Serenade,* features the surviving Funk Brothers. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

John Heffron: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 8–10.* A South Lyon native and EMU grad who now lives in L.A., Heffron specializes in observations about the indignities and absurdities of life from the point of view of children and youths. A frequent guest on network and cable TV shows, Heffron was the winner in the 2nd season of NBC's *Last Comic Standing* competition. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $18 (Thurs.) & $21 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $20 (Thurs.) & $23 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Young at Heart" (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

9 FRIDAY

★Ride Around Town: Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month." All invited to join a bike ride around town through all 4 major downtown business districts that ends up at Zingerman's Next Door for bread and cheese. *7–9:30 a.m., Liberty Plaza, Liberty at Division. Free. 214–0100.*

★Senior Housing Awareness Week: Housing Bureau for Seniors. *May 9 & 12–16 (different locations).* A series of events exploring housing issues for seniors in conjunction with Senior Housing Awareness Week, May 9–18. Also, throughout the week, open houses at area senior housing communities (for detailed schedule, see ad on p. 34). Today: a **"Housing & Living Expo"** features seminars on "Long Term Care Costs and What You Should Know" (10:15–10:45 a.m.), "Green House Project" (10:45–11:30 a.m.), "A Move to Senior Housing: Why and How It Is Working" (1:30–3:30 p.m.), and "Comparing Costs: My Home vs. Senior Housing" (1:30–3:30 p.m.). Lunch provided. *9:15 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 998–9336.*

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation). *May 9 & 23.* A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *9:30–11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6. 997–1553.*

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★**"Get the Lead Out": Ann Arbor District Library.** A day of informational displays and activities about the hazards of lead and how to get it out of our homes. Includes continuous screenings of the short film *Jimmy's Getting Better* and a coloring book for kids. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *May 9 & 23.* Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available ($2.50). *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

Family Shabbat Dinner: Jewish Community Center Early Childhood Center. Kids age 5 & under invited with their families for dinner, with a program presented by ECC kids and a sing-along. *6–7:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 (kids age 2 & older, $5). Reservations required. 971–0990.*

★**Annual Potluck Dinner: Ann Arbor Garden Club.** Dinner and slide-illustrated talk by local artist Diane Soisson on **"Flowers in Colored Pencil: From Garden to Canvas."** Bring a salad or dessert to share; main course provided. *6 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Rd. Free. 769–2015.*

"Spring Social": Logan Elementary School. Sock hop with 50s music by a DJ from Bak Entertainment (Saline). Also, root beer floats, a hula hoop contest, basket raffles, and more. Concessions available. *6–9 p.m., Logan Elementary, 2685 Traver Rd. $5 (children, $4). 994–1807.*

★**"Healing Sports Injuries and Pain Naturally": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local acupuncturist Mark Rojek. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

"Dreams by Design": Michigan Ability Partners. Black-and-white-themed fund-raiser with hot tapas, a chocolate fountain, and a "Best Little Black Dress" contest. Also, live and silent auctions of a wide array of donated goods and services, with Ypsilanti auctioneer Trader Bob. Proceeds benefit Michigan Ability Partners, a local agency that provides housing and support services for veterans and the homeless, mentally ill, and disabled. *7 p.m., Kensington Court Hotel, 610 Hilton Blvd. (off S. State just past Briarwood). $65 in advance only. 975–6880.*

★**"The Words of a Woman": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local writer **Christine McGinley** presents an interpretive reading of her monologue exploring the female voice through a mosaic of excerpts from the writings of more then 50 women writers and historical figures, including Hannah Arendt, Aung San Suu Kyi, Flannery O'Connor, Ayn Rand, Sappho, Isadora Duncan, and others. Following the performance, McGinley discusses the process of creating the work. Q&A. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": Chelsea Area Players Youth Theater. See 8 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**Poetry Discussion: Older Lesbians Organizing.** All lesbians invited to join a group discussion of contemporary and 20th-century women poets. Possible poetry readings with members sharing their own work. *7:30 p.m., WRAP office (upstairs) 325 Braun. Free. 995–9867.*

★**Spring Concert: Women's Chamber Chorus.** David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in a varied program TBA. Piano accompanist is Leslie Austin. Also, a performance by the group's **Chamber Maids** sextet and **Joyous Ringers** handbell ensemble. *7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free; donations accepted. 213–7670, 663–5907.*

"Pranayam": Sparsh. An Indian cultural showcase to benefit Sparsh, a foundation that helps Indian children who need heart surgery. Sparsh founder **Sreyashi Dey**, a nationally acclaimed classical Indian dancer, performs Odissi dance, which emphasizes subtle, fluidly sculpted movements through S-shaped body positions. The Detroit music ensemble **Antara** plays *rabindrasangeet*, songs composed by the venerated Bengali poet Tagore. Also, a theatrical performance by U-M statistics professor **Ananda Sen** and others. The show opens with a program of dance, music, and poetry by local children. Calcutta surgeon Srirup Chatterjee reports on the Sparsh heart surgery project. *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $25–$100 (students and children 10 & under, $15) in advance and at the door. 769–4917.*

"Jane Eyre": Young Actors Guild. *May 9–11.* Sue Roe directs local young actors ages 12–20 in Robert Johanson's adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's classic novel about a plain, poor governess who discovers her employer and fiance's mad wife locked in the attic of his mansion. This adaptation strays little from the novel, which champions an unfortunate woman's determination to maintain her independence and self-respect whatever the consequences. *7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, 911 North University. $12 (kids age 11 & under, $9) at the door only. 913–9800.*

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *May 9 & 23.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book *Lectures on Karmic Relationships*, vol. 2. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662–6398.*

2nd Friday Advanced English Dance. English country dancing for experienced dancers. Tom Senior calls to music by Childgrove. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. Callers and musicians TBA. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94), Saline. $10. (248) 288–4737.*

Peter Mayer: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Earthy, intimate originals by this Minnesota singer-songwriter whose songs are known for their down-home wisdom on a range of topics from Buddha and Jesus to Isaac Newton and Harley-Davidsons. Mayer is also known for his warm, resonant baritone and fluid, rhythmically supple guitar playing. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662–4536, 665–8558.*

Jimmy Scott: The Ark/Michigan Theater Foundation. *See review, p. 63.* Legendary 84-year-old jazz vocalist, a male soprano whom Ray Charles credited with inventing soul singing and whose fans and imitators range from contemporaries like Ruth Brown to Frankie Valli and Lou Reed. Scott's singing has a high piercing quality that's the result of a hereditary hormonal deficiency that kept his voice from developing beyond boyhood, and that's made all the more compelling by his distinctively deliberative phrasing and immaculate diction. "He sings with the melodic concept of an instrument," says Quincy Jones, who was a trumpeter with Lionel Hampton's band when Scott made his debut as a vocalist with Hampton in 1949. "It's a very emotional, soul-penetrating style. He'd put me on my knees, give me goose bumps. Jimmy used to tear my heart out every night." And he's still going strong. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Sancta Maria: 17th-Century Songs and Sonatas Celebrating Motherhood": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church/Academy of Early Music. A trio of

classical music

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Dexter Community Orchestra

For love, not money

You could feel the love in the air. And with seventy musicians onstage and 300 people in the audience, that's a whole lot of love on a warm, autumn Sunday afternoon in the Center for the Performing Arts in Dexter High School.

The musicians of the Dexter Community Orchestra aren't paid to play. They're here because they love the music and each other. The folks in the audience don't pay to attend. They're here because they love the music and the musicians. Together, they form a community of amateurs in the truest sense of the word: people who do it not for the money but for the love.

Sure there were some onstage slips. The violins weren't always together above third position. The cellos sometimes blurred in fast passages. A pair of woodwinds went out of tune once for a few bars. Even twenty minutes into the concert, dozens of patrons were still finding their seats. And there always seemed to be a little girl or two for whom the urge to dance proved irresistible.

So what? These were amateurs, and there was love in every note. Mozart's *Jupiter Symphony* had joy in the opening Allegro, bliss in the Andante cantabile, bounce in the Menuetto, and exhilaration in the closing Molto allegro. Bizet's *Carmen Suite no. 1* had fire, sweat, blood, and a big bass drum. Rimsky-Korsakov's *Russian Easter Overture* had a platoon of percussion, a battalion of brass, and a ravishingly beautiful violin solo from concertmaster Fran Wakefield.

Founder and music director Donald Parrish led the Mozart and the Rimsky-Korsakov with clarity, lucidity, and a firm baton. Assistant music director David MacQueen led the Bizet with big gestures, clear cues, and a strong downbeat. The Dexter musicians showed their adaptability by sounding quite different for each conductor: clean and tight under Parrish, bright and colorful under MacQueen.

Now in its third season—which concludes with a concert at the Dexter Center for the Performing Arts in Dexter High School on Saturday, May 17—the Dexter Community Orchestra isn't the St. Petersburg Philharmonic or even the Ann Arbor Symphony. It couldn't be and doesn't need to be. It's the Dexter Community Orchestra. These musicians love what they do, and their audience loves them for it. What more could anyone ask?

—James Leonard

well-known local early-music specialists—soprano **Deborah Friauff,** cornettist **Kiri Tollaksen,** and organist **Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra**—are joined by Canadian Baroque trombonist **Linda Pearse** in a program of Italian devotional music to Mary, the mother of Christ. The program features selections from Monteverdi's *Marian Vespers,* 2 pieces by the Benedictine nun Chiara Margarita Cozzolani, and works by Cima, Picchi, and Castello. Also, a 17th-century cornetto from the U-M Stearns Collection is on display during intermission. *8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. $15 (seniors, $12 & students, $5) at the door. 663–0518, ext. 205.*

"The Crucible": Dexter Community Players. *May 9–11, 16, & 17.* Angelle Chandler directs Dexter-area actors in Arthur Miller's 1953 drama about the infamous 1692 Salem witch trials. Appearing at the height of the McCarthy era, the play was seen in its time as a thinly veiled indictment of senator Joseph McCarthy and his followers, but its enduring popularity suggests it touches on irrationalities endemic to American culture. Stars Sean Sabo, Nicole Coven, Brendan Bachman, Corrina Gauss, and AJ Ellwood. *8 p.m., Dexter High School Copeland Auditorium, 7714 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd., Dexter. Tickets $10 in advance, $12 at the door. 424–4100.*

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

John Heffron: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Jeff Hamilton Trio: The Firefly Club. *May 9 & 10.* Straight-ahead mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by Hamilton, an acclaimed California-based drummer who performed for many years in the Ray Brown Trio. Hamilton is known for his unusually melodic drumming and for the crisp swing and drive of his rhythms. *9 & 11 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. Tickets $20 & $30 in advance and at the door. 665–9090.*

FILMS

Borders Waters Place. "Nancy Drew" (Andrew Fleming, 2007). Family film based on the popular children's novels about a crime-solving teen detective. Emma Roberts. FREE. 997–8884. Borders (3140 Lohr Rd.), 7 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Control"** (Anton Corbijn, 2007). Biography of Ian Curtis, lead singer of the 80s postpunk band Joy Division. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **"Young at Heart"** (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

10 SATURDAY

★Spring Roundup Horse Show: 4-H. Club members and other youth show their sometimes lavishly decorated horses, demonstrate western and English riding, and compete in exciting gymkhana (speed racing) events, featuring pole bending (like slalom racing) and the cloverleaf (a race with tight turns), beginning in midafternoon (time depending on number of entrants). Proceeds from horse owner entrants benefit 4-H. Refreshments available. Rain or shine. *8 a.m.–evening, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Free to spectators. 997–1678.*

★Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum. All invited to help Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Reader Center, 1610 Washington Hts. Free. 647–8528.*

★Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. See 3 Saturday. Today: a trip to **Mary Beth Doyle Park** (formerly Brown Park) to help set out native plants around the entrance. *9 a.m.–noon, Mary Beth Doyle Park (meet in the parking lot at the Packard Rd. entrance between Stone School Rd. and Platt Rd.). Free. 996–3266.*

Rummage Sale: Eberwhite Elementary School PTO. Sale of items donated by the school's families. Proceeds benefit the PTO. *9 a.m.–1 p.m., Eberwhite School auditorium, 800 Soule Blvd. (off Liberty). Free admission. 994–1934.*

"Stitching Memories": St. Andrew's United Church of Christ. Display of more than 100 quilts, some heirlooms and some created by local quilters. Also, quilting demonstrations and supply vendors. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., St. Andrew's UCC, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Admission $5. 426–4980.*

33rd Annual Cat Show: Anthony Wayne Cat Fanciers. Hundreds of beautiful puddies ranging from local house pets to exotic and rare purebreds representing over 25 breeds. The cats compete for

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Saturday, May 17

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awards or regional and national points—the kitten competition is particularly adorable. Also, cat trees in the shape of flowers, toys, shirts, scratching posts, jingle bell collars, cat-related clothing, dishes, mats, decorations—"anything you can think of," says an organizer. *9 a.m.–6 p.m., U-M Sports Coliseum, Hill at Fifth Ave. Spectators $6 (students & seniors, $4) at the door. 434–8588.*

"5K Run and Walk": Vision Builders. 5-km run and walk, along with a 100-m dash for kids age 6 & under and a 750-m run for kids ages 7–10. Also, a moonwalk from Jump City and other kids activities. Free postrace picnic. Awards for top male and female finishers in various age categories. Entry fee includes T-shirt, along with a ribbon for kids race participants. Proceeds go to Vision Builders, a local nonprofit that provides schools, medical care, clean water, and other basic needs of children in the Himalayan region. *10 a.m. (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.), Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $25 (kids under 12, $15; family, $45). Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). $5 discount if you preregister at visionbuilders5k.org. 926–0976.*

★**"Work Party": Community Farm of Ann Arbor.** All invited to visit this working farm to pitch in and spruce 'er up by sifting soil, weeding, painting, or doing carpentry. With luck, the farm's brand new **solar-powered tractor** will be viewable. Live music by **Breathe Owl Breathe,** the local duo of guitarist and banjoist Micah Middaugh and cellist Andrea Moreno-Beals whose songs are set to atmospheric, intricately textured instrumental and vocal landscapes. Followed by a potluck (bring a dish to pass). *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Community Farm of Ann Arbor, 1525 S. Fletcher Rd. Free. 475–7451.*

"Arb Ramble": U-M Nichols Arboretum. Local naturalist Robert Ayotte leads a hike through the Arb. *10 a.m.–noon, meet at the Reader Center, 1610 Washington Hts. $5 (members & students, free). Preregistration required. 647–7600.*

★**"Pressed Flowers": Waterloo Recreation Area.** Park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh leads a hands-on introduction to the art of pressing flowers and helps participants make a pressed-flower Mother's Day craft. Materials provided. *11 a.m., Eddy Discovery Center (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

★**Warhammer/Warmachine Open Play: Get Your Game On.** *Every Saturday except May 3.* All invited to play these 2 tactical miniatures board games. Also, at 1 p.m., **Magic: the Gathering tournaments** ($5; bring your own cards) using a standard constructed deck and a format TBA at getyourgameonline.com, and demos of some of the stores board games. *11 a.m.–10 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

★**"Border to Border Trail Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Newcomers and casual riders invited to join a very leisurely, family-friendly 22-mile ride along Washtenaw County's Border to Border trail, with a stop in Ypsilanti's Depot Town for lunch. *11:30 a.m., meet at the Bandemer Park entrance off Barton Dr. at Whitmore Lake Rd. Free. 662–0205.*

Southern Michigan Orienteering Club. *May 10, 17, & 25 (different locations).* All invited to try this at-your-own-pace sport of reading maps and compasses to follow an outdoor course. Maps, some compasses available. No experience necessary. *Noon–2 p.m., Pond Lily Lookout, Green Rd., Chelsea (east on Green Rd. off Clear Lake Rd. north of I-94). $10 (members, $5). 995–4783.*

★**"Women's Day Out": Salvation Army.** All women age 14 & older invited to join a discussion of **"Bad Girls of the Bible."** *1 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

★**"Amphibian Adventure for Kids": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner gives a slide-illustrated talk, tells stories, displays live specimens, and leads a hike to track down some wily amphibians. *2–3 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. Vehicle entrance fees: $5/day ($2.50 for seniors age 62 & over), $25/year. 971–6337.*

★**"Making Up with Mom: Why Mothers and Daughters Disagree about Kids, Careers, and Casseroles (and What to Do about It)": Borders Express.** Local freelance journalist **Julie Halpert** (See 4 Sunday listing) signs copies of this new book she cowrote with Deborah Carr. *2–4 p.m., Borders Express, Briarwood mall. Free. 669–0785.*

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": Chelsea Area Players Youth Theater. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Children's Choral Festival": Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. The 2 choirs of this ensemble of talented local youth singers are joined by the Columbus Indiana Children's Choir, the Grand Rapids Junior Youth Chorus, and the Dearborn Middle Schools Honor Choir for a concert highlighted by a joint premiere of Washington, D.C., composer Andrew Simpson's *May Flowers*, a new work commissioned for the occasion. Each choir also performs separate sets. *4 p.m., Pease auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. $12 (kids age 12 & under and seniors, $6) in advance and at the door. 487–2282.*

★"Assemblywomen": U-M Classics Department. Northwestern University classics professor Kate Bosher directs Northwestern drama students in Toronto playwright Greg Robic's hit musical adaptation of Aristophanes' 4th-century B.C. comedy about Athenian women who disguise themselves as men, arrive early at the Assembly, vote to hand power over to women, and then, dressed as women, promptly establish a protocommunist state that includes a new regime of gender and sexual rights. *4:45 p.m., Michigan Room Hussey Room. Free. 936–6099.*

James Galway: University Musical Society Ford Honors Program. Performance by this recipient of the 2008 UMS Distinguished Artist Award, a celebrated flutist whose superb technical skill and animated stage presence have earned him the nickname "the man with the golden flute." He is joined by his wife, the acclaimed flutist **Jeanne Galway**, for Franz Doppler's *Rigoletto Fantasy*. His program also includes Poulenc's Sonata for Flute and Piano, Philippe Gaubert's Madrigal and his *Nocturne et Allegro Scherzando*, Antonio Bazzini's "La Ronde des Lutins," and Cecile Chaminade's Concertino. Accompanist is pianist **Phillip Moll**. Also, a brief musical tribute to Galway by a youth choir and the Southeast Michigan Flute Association. Followed by a gala dinner fund-raiser ($300 & up). *6 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$75 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538. For information about gala tickets, call 647–8009.*

"Tea Tasting": Zingerman's Delicatessen. *May 10 & 24.* Zingerman's tea expert Jess Piskor shows how to brew and offers taste samples of several fine teas. *7–8 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door Kids Room (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $10 in advance, $15 (if available) at the door. 663–3354.*

"Steps in Time: Dancing Through the Ages": Dance Gallery Foundation. The Dance Gallery Youth Ensemble performs a chronological showcase of dance history, featuring folk and court dances, classical ballet, 20th-century jazz and tap, modern dance, and a contemporary piece choreographed by U-M dance professor Peter Sparling. *7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. $5 minimum donation. 747–8885.*

★Spring Concert: Treetown Community Chorus. David Perample directs this independent local mixed chorus in a varied program TBA. *7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free; donations accepted. 213–7670.*

"Jane Eyre": Young Actors Guild. See 9 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

Ballroom Dance Party: Come Dancing School of Ballroom Dancing. *May 10 & 24.* Dancing to recorded music on a huge dance floor. Preceded at 6 and 7 p.m. by 50-minute lessons ($11 each) in different styles. Refreshments. *8–10 p.m., Come Dancing, 7025 E. Michigan (Country Creek Plaza), Saline. $10 (with one lesson, $6.50; with both lessons, free). 944–1888.*

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls contras to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Wear flat, smooth-soled shoes. Beginners welcome. *8 p.m., Webster Community Hall, 5665 Webster Church Rd. between Joy and North Territorial, Dexter. $8. 996–8359.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $5. 822–2120.*

"Our Mothers, Ourselves": Kerrytown Concert House. A touching, funny, free-wheeling variety show of old-fashioned parlor songs, musical theater, and more, by the noted local all-female singing group **Wine, Women & Song,** along with local actor-playwright James Ingagiola, U-M piano professor emeritus James Dapogny, and pianist Jerry DePuit. The singers include Sue Booth, Lisa Gray, Shelley MacMillan, Elizabeth Major, Natasha Major, Susan Shipman, Monica Swartout-Bebow, KCH owner Deanna Relyea, Jane Schoonmaker Rodgers, and Wendy Bloom. Wine is served. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15, $20, & $30. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

Shemekia Copeland: The Ark. The 29-year-old daughter of the late blues guitar legend Johnny Copeland, Copeland has established herself as one of the most compelling voices of contemporary blues. Her singing combines a sometimes astonishing power with the wickedly mercurial vocal personality characteristic of blues. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Jeff Hamilton Trio: The Firefly Club. See 9 Friday. 8 & 10 p.m.

"The Crucible": Dexter Community Players. See 9 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Flight of the Conchords: Live Nation. Sold out. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $35 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

John Heffron: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Young at Heart" (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

11 SUNDAY (Mother's Day)

★Horse Show: Spur of the Moment Club. A judged amateur riding event for kids and adults, including English, western, and gymkhana riding styles as well as halter and showmanship ground handling styles. Also, fun games like **barrel racing.** Many young riders get their start here before moving on to the professional circuits. Lunch available. *8 a.m.–about 7 p.m. (racing and games begin around 3 p.m. and last until 6 p.m.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. 429–7615.*

★"Classic Bike-a-Thon Routes": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. The Ecology Center's annual Bike-a-Thon fund-raiser moved several years ago from the second Sunday in May to a Sunday in June, but today's AABTS ride features 3 favorite Bike-a-Thon routes: the fast-paced 96-mile "Waterloo Wanderer," the moderate-paced 58-mile "Chelsea Metric," and the slow-paced 29-mile "County Loop." *9 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 663–2540 (96-mile ride), 761–1147 (58-mile ride), 663–4075 (29-mile ride).*

★Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Sunday except May 4.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. *10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). Free, but donations accepted. 994–3387.*

★Catherine Wilkerson: Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. This local physician discusses her district court trial last fall when she successfully defended herself against a charge of obstructing police and ambulance personnel during a political protest, and her dismissal as a Packard Community Clinic physician for her political activities. *10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.*

Family Drum Circle: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. All families invited to join a group drumming session. Bring your own drum, or use one of Arts in Motion's. *12:45–1:45 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. $5 per person. 646–9417.*

★Bird Hills Neighborhood Coalition Series: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. *May 11 & 25.* All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff restore and maintain the natural areas in Bird Hills Park. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. *1–4 p.m., meet at the Bird Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Park. Free. 996–3266.*

"Mother's Day Wildflower Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a hike to look for spring wildflowers. *1 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter–Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 426–8211.*

"Tea with the Fairies": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as magical fairies to sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petits fours, and cookies to kids and their families. Also,

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11 SUNDAY *continued*

fairy stories and readings. Bring your own fairy wings and dolls. *1 & 3 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. $8.50 (babies 18 months & younger, free). Preregistration required. 665–2757.*

★"Historical Mystery Mother's Day": Aunt Agatha's. California writer **Sharan Newman** and New York City writer **Alan Gordon** discuss their new books and the challenges of writing historical mysteries. Newman's ***The Shanghai Tunnel*** is the first in her series, set in 1860s Portland, Oregon, about the widow of a wealthy merchant whose efforts to reform the local business community's addiction to the opium trade lead to a spate of murders, and Gordon's ***The Moneylender of Toulouse*** is the 7th in his series featuring Theophilos, a 13th-century court jester detective. Tea & cookies. Signing. *2 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

★Friends of Four-Hand Piano. Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–6261, 485–5007.*

★"Sunday Matinee": Dreamland Theater. Screening of ***Faust***, Jan Svankmayer's 1994 surrealist film, based on the play by Goethe, about an ordinary man who ends up selling his soul to the devil after being lured into a sinister puppet theater. Followed by a performance of ***Fraeulein Bunsen***, an early Dreamland puppet troupe production. *2 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St. Ypsilanti. Free. 657–2337.*

"Jane Eyre": Young Actors Guild. See 9 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Crucible": Dexter Community Players. See 9 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

19th Annual Spring Concert: Measure for Measure. South Lyon High School vocal music director Steve Lorenz conducts this lively 90-member local men's chorus in an eclectic program of spirituals, world music, Americana, and a smattering of chestnuts by Copland, Grieg, Rachmaninoff, and Vaughan Williams. *3 p.m., Hill Auditorium. $18 (seniors, $14; students and kids 12 & under, $7) in advance and at the door. 649–SONG.*

"Mother's Day Afternoon: Songs from and for Young Girls": Riverside Arts Center Fund-Raiser. Acclaimed soprano **Lisa Saffer**, an Ann Arbor native who has been featured in starring roles with the New York City Opera and the English National Opera, is accompanied by U-M piano professor **Kathryn Goodson** in a program of songs by Wolf, Strauss, Ravel, Purcell, Schubert, Cecil Sharp, and Joaquin Rodrigo. The late *Village Voice* critic Leighton Kerner described Saffer as "one of those special singers whose technique and blooming sound always serves sense and emotion." Followed by a champagne reception. *3 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy. between Geddes & Plymouth). Tickets $100 in advance by May 1. 480–ARTS.*

La Chispa y Compania: Ann Arbor Friends of La Chispa. Performance by this classy Detroit flamenco troupe led by Valeria Montes, a nationally acclaimed flamenco dancer. With guitarist Dan Parisen, percussionist Mark Sawasky, and other musicians TBA. Reception follows. *7 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. $20 & $25 (students & seniors, $15) by reservation and at the door. 663–0681.*

Richie Havens: The Ark. This veteran folk-rock singer-guitarist is known for his wild and ingenious guitar playing, his hauntingly elegiac vocal style, and his trenchantly soulful reworkings of material by a wide range of top contemporary songwriters. His latest CD, *Resume: The Best of Richie Havens,* collects the cream of his work from the late 60s and early 70s. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $30 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Jewish Film Festival": Jewish Community Center. *May 11–15.* This annual festival of documentary and feature films on Jewish themes opens tonight with ***Making Trouble: Three Generations of Funny Jewish Women,*** Rachel Talbot's 2007 documentary about Molly Picon, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Joan Rivers, Wendy Wasserstein, and Gilda Radner. All women admitted free tonight. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a dessert reception. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. $10 (festival pass, $65). 971–0990.*

FILMS

Jewish Community Center. "Jewish Film Festival." See Events listing above. Mich., 8 p.m. **Pfizer Family-Friendly Film Series. "The Never Ending Story"** (Wolfgang Petersen, 1984). Fantasy adventure about an unhappy boy who stumbles into the mythical land of Fantasia when he begins to read an ancient tome. $8.50 (students, $6.75; kids 12 & under, free). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, 1:30 p.m. **Melange. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner."** See 4 Sunday. Tonight: ***I Am Legend*** (Francis Lawrence, 2007). Adaptation of Richard Matheson's 1954 novel about a lone human in a postapocalyptic world. Will Smith. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "Young at Heart"** (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

12 MONDAY

"Yoga at the Gardens": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. *May 12 & 19.* Local yoga instructor Janine Bennett leads a session of Vinyasa-style hatha yoga sun salutations and postures to recorded music. Bring a mat and towel. *Noon–1 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $10. 647–7600.*

★Bobby Flay: Waters Place Borders/Ann Arbor Book Festival. This Food Network star and grill master signs copies of his 4th grilling cookbook, ***Bobby Flay's Grill It!*** *12:30 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *May 12 & 26.* All seniors age 55 & older invited to play this popular bridge format. No partner required. *12:45–3:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $1. 769–5911.*

★Senior Housing Awareness Week: Housing Bureau for Seniors. See 9 Friday. Today: **"Assisted Living: Tools for Decision Making."** *1:30–3:30 p.m., Brookhaven Manor Retirement Community, 401 W. Oakbrook (between S. Main & Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. north of Eisenhower). Free. Preregistration required. 998–9336.*

"Jewish Film Festival": Jewish Community Center. See 11 Sunday. Today: ***Knowledge Is the Beginning*** (2 p.m.) is Paul Smaczny's 2005 documentary about the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, where young Arabs and Jews perform and live side by side. ***Sketches of Frank Gehry*** (5 p.m.) is Sydney Pollack's 2005 documentary about the career of the renowned architect. It is followed by a discussion led by U-M architecture professor Tom Buresh. U-M English professor Ralph Williams leads a discussion following a screening of Paul Verhoeven's 2006 thriller ***Black Book*** (8 p.m.), a story of love and betrayal, set in the final years of WW II, about a Dutch Jewish woman, once a famous singer, who narrowly escapes the Germans and joins the Dutch resistance. German, Dutch, Hebrew, & English; subtitles. 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

★"Speedpooling": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month." All downtown employees invited to find others interested in sharing a commute and hear a short talk on the benefits of carpooling and vanpooling. Also, a chance to check out the new AATA online ridesharing software. Prizes, including a Daihatsu Copen remote-controlled car. *5:30 & 6:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. Free. 214–0100.*

★"Flycasting for Fun": Trout Unlimited. All invited to try their hands at fly casting, with certified instructors available for guidance. Beginners welcome. Bring equipment if you have it. *6 p.m. until dark, Riverside Park, 1050 Wall St. (behind the Kellogg Eye Center). Free. 433–2661.*

★Youth Orchestra Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Abigail Alwin directs this student ensemble in a program of classical orchestral music. *6 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. Donations accepted. 995–4625.*

★"My Weaving Journey": Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. Club member Millie Danielson discusses her weaving experience. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Free. 996–8601.*

★"Volleyball in the Park": Ann Arbor Ski Club. *Every Monday.* All adults age 21 & older invited to join a volleyball game. All skill levels welcome. Postgame socializing at CUBS' AC. *7 p.m.–dark, Burns Park (just east of the picnic pavilion), corner of Wells & Baldwin. Free. 973–2136.*

★"The Construction of Doom: The Mine at Petersburg": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table. Grand Rapids CWRT member John Vohlken discusses the incident when Union sappers exploded a mine at Petersburg, Virginia. *7 p.m., St. Joseph*

Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 930–0617.

★**"Halting Inflammation": People's Food Co-op.** Local naturopath Diana Christoff Quinn discusses natural ways to prevent inflammation, often an underlying cause of cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tearoom, 114 S. Main. Free. Reservations requested. 994–4589.*

★**John Sandford: Nicola's Books/Ann Arbor Book Festival.** This suspense novelist (and Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist) reads from ***Phantom Prey,*** the 18th novel in his best-selling series about homicide detective Lucas Davenport. Signing; preregistration for a place in the signing line recommended. *7 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

★**"Restoring U.S. Credibility Through International Cooperation": Huron Valley Chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA.** All invited to join a discussion led by EMU political science professors Richard Stahler-Sholk and Judy Kullberg. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 487–3325.*

FILMS

Jewish Community Center. "Jewish Film Festival." See Events listing above. Mich., 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

MTF. "Young at Heart" (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

13 TUESDAY

★**Nichols Arboretum Tour: Good Thyme Garden Club.** All invited to tour the Arb with local master gardeners and have lunch with club members. Rain date: May 15. *10 a.m., the Arb, meeting location TBA. Free. 663–8577.*

★**Senior Housing Awareness Week: Housing Bureau for Seniors.** See 9 Friday. Today: **"Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?"** a panel on downsizing or cleaning out a relative's home. Followed by a free lunch. *10:30 a.m.–noon, Sunrise Assisted Living, 1901 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 998–9336.*

"Jewish Film Festival": Jewish Community Center. See 11 Sunday. Today: ***Steal a Pencil for Me*** (2 p.m.) is Michele Ohayon's 2007 documentary about the 6-decade-long love affair between a Dutch Jewish couple who first met under the Nazi occupation when she was the 20-year-old daughter of a wealthy diamond merchant and he was poor and unhappily married to a mercurial spouse. All three soon find themselves living in the same concentration camp barracks, where the lovers sustain each other with secret love letters. ***I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal*** (5 p.m.) is Richard Trank's 2007 documentary, narrated by Nicole Kidman, about the Austrian Jewish architect who became a Nazi hunter and human rights activist after surviving the Holocaust. English & German, subtitles. The screening is followed by a discussion led by U-M political science professor Lars Rensmann. ***Someone to Run With*** (8 p.m.) is Oded Davidoff's 2006 adaptation of David Grossman's harrowing coming-of-age tale, set on the streets of contemporary Jerusalem, about the intimacy that develops between 2 teens who have never met but whose lives become intertwined. Hebrew, subtitles. 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

★**Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. *7 p.m., Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower). Free. 769–5911.*

"The Upside Down Harvest": Vinology. *May 13 & 28.* Vinology staff discuss southern hemisphere spring grape harvests and wines of South America, South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia. Followed by a tasting of 6–8 wines, with a cheese plate and appetizers. *7–9 p.m., Vinology, 110 S. Main St. $40. Reservations required. 222–0941.*

★**"An Introduction to Homeopathy": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local naturopath Audrey Blagsvedt. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

"Try It on Everything": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. Screening of Nicholas Ortner, Jessica Ortner, and Nicholas Polizzi's 2007 documentary about Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), a psychotherapeutic alternative medicine technique that its creator, Gary Craig, describes as "an emotional version of acupuncture but without needles." Followed by a demo by certified EFT instructor Susan Major. *7–9:30 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 971–8576.*

★**"Buy a Ride: No Clunkers, Lemons, or Junkers": Ann Arbor District Library.** Auto technology instructor Paul Kruthaup offers kids in grades 9–12 tips on what to look for in buying their first car and how to keep it in good condition. *7–8 p.m.,*

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Raymond McDaniel

After the hurricane

As anyone who has heard the hundreds of literary introductions he has given around town over the last decade would suspect, Raymond McDaniel is a poet who revels in the textures of words. Many of his poems focus on the intersection of sounds, the alliterative play of the consonants fighting against the longer, almost rhyming sounds of the vowels. Often the words are collected in sonorous clusters that are more important than the lines or stanzas or even the narrative sense that would try to contain them: "Mosquito netting's opera lace for godly, for godlets.//Only flesh can masquerade mechanical."

This technique is an almost perfect way to capture the languid, tropical atmosphere of the Gulf Coast, McDaniel's home ground and the setting for his most recent collection, *Saltwater Empire*. I'm guessing that this book started as an effort to recapture some of the characters and the language of New Orleans and other parts of the gulf. McDaniel would look at the picture clearly, recognizing the full range of the history, allowing anger even as his clear affection for it all often created the undercurrent of the poems. But then something happened. Hurricane Katrina hit, and in its aftermath the country abandoned many of its citizens. What may have been seen as McDaniel's understandable nostalgia was replaced by rage. The Saltwater Empire has changed forever.

The book includes several long poems, all called "Convention Centers of the New World." These poems are built out of other people's words, people who were famously captive in the New Orleans Superdome and whose words are collected in an oral history project called "Alive in Truth." McDaniel puts this simple, powerful language against his own powerful but more elaborate language:

It's just unfair to me. I mean, I have so much unfinished business
in New Orleans, that—will it ever get taken care of?

Will the pieces ever get put together?

Will I be spending the rest of my life living in the past?

You know, what? Where do I go from here?
Where do my children go from here?

This contrast of the documentary language with McDaniel's own hits the readers with a force that is greater than either would have otherwise. And when the two languages are directly combined, as in the poem "Assault to Abjury," McDaniel creates the poems of this historical moment that may indeed become part of the way we remember it: "God help us we tried to stay shattered but we just got better.//We grew adept, we caught the fish as they fled.//We skinned the fish, our knife clicked like an edict.//We were harmed, and then we healed."

Raymond McDaniel reads from *Saltwater Empire* at the Ann Arbor Book Festival street fair on North University on Saturday, May 17.

—Keith Taylor

13 TUESDAY *continued*

AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.

★**"Climate Change and Ann Arbor's Sister City Tuebingen": Ann Arbor District Library.** Tuebingen mayor **Boris Palmer** discusses the aggressive climate protection campaign he started in his 1st year in office. Palmer, a rising star in the German Green Party, is in town leading a delegation of 29 Tuebingen citizens to learn about Ann Arbor's environmental initiatives and strengthen support for artist exchanges between the 2 cities. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & up invited to discuss Jeff Smith's black & white graphic novel ***Bone***, an epic fantasy. Refreshments. *7–9 p.m., 3154 Angell Hall. Free. 764–2553.*

★**Rick Riordan: Liberty Borders.** This best-selling San Antonio novelist is on hand to sign copies of the latest novel in his popular Percy Jackson young adult series ***The Battle of the Labyrinth.*** *7 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Jillian Moreno: Nicola's Books.** This local writer and knitting expert discusses her most recent book, ***More Big Girl Knits: 25 Designs Full of Color and Texture for Curvy Women.*** Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Elizabeth Goodenough: Shaman Drum Bookshop/Ann Arbor Book Festival.** This U-M Residential College lecturer reads ***Under Fire: Childhood in the Shadow of War,*** her study of the representation of war in books for children and young adults. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss ***The Logic of Sufficiency,*** Thomas Princen's economic model based on having enough rather than getting more. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Teitur: The Ark. Young singer-songwriter who writes contemporary songs infused with the traditional musical flavors of his native Faeroe Islands. "Teitur's songs have a breezy wispiness underneath their melancholy chord changes—think a happier Nick Drake or a modern-day Al Stewart—and his sparing use of orchestration and fanciful keyboard colorations make the songs seem lighter on the surface than they actually are," says veteran pop critic Jeff Tamarkin. Opening act is **Tina Dico,** an acclaimed young Danish singer-songwriter whose dark, moody introspective folk-rock songs are strongly influenced by Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, and Joni Mitchell. *All Music Guide* critic Alex Henderson calls her music "subtle but never wimpy." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

Jewish Community Center. "Jewish Film Festival." See Events listing above. Mich., 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

WCBN-FM. "Garage Band Night." Veteran WCBN DJ Frank Uhle hosts a screening of ***The Blast-Off Girls,*** Herschel Gordon Lewis's 1967 comedy about a sleazy promoter who uses hired girls to help him promote a garage band he has blackmailed into letting him manage its career. The inspiration for the popular former WCBN show. Also, rare clips of the 13th-Floor Elevators, the Seeds, and other 60s garage bands. FREE admission. 763–3500. Live at PJ's (102 S. First), 9 p.m. **MTF. "Young at Heart"** (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

14 WEDNESDAY

★**"Shingles: Pros and Cons of the Vaccine": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Talk by a Michigan Visiting Nurses representative TBA. *Noon–1:30 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Reservations required. 998–9353.*

★**"The Supply Side of Downtown": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month."** Longtime DDA Citizens Advisory Committee member Ray Detter leads a walk around the Kerrytown and Farmers' Market area and discusses its history. *Noon–1 p.m., Sweetwaters, Kerrytown. Free. 214–0100.*

★**Group Drumming: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Diane Baker for drumming and singing. Drums provided. *1:45–2:45 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

"Jewish Film Festival": Jewish Community Center. See 11 Sunday. Today: ***The Powder and the Glory*** (2 p.m.) is Ann Carol Grossman and Arnie Reisman's 2007 documentary about Helena Rubinstein and Elizabeth Arden, archrivals who virtually created the modern cosmetics industry. Also, ***A Good Uplift,*** Faye Lederman's light-hearted documentary—a big hit at the 2006 Jewish Film Festival—about a visit to a Lower East Side lingerie shop owned by a Jewish grandmother who helps women of all shapes and sizes find the perfect bra. ***David Rubinger: Eyewitness*** (5 p.m.), Micha Shagrir's 1998 documentary about the celebrated Israeli photographer, is followed by a discussion led by Rubinger. Hebrew, subtitles. ***Brother's Shadow*** (8 p.m.) is Todd Yellin's 2006 drama about an ex-con, the black sheep of his family, who returns from his self-imposed exile after the death of his twin brother to attempt to save the family furniture business. Followed by a discussion led by the director. 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

★**Senior Housing Awareness Week: Housing Bureau for Seniors.** See 9 Friday. Today: **"Caregiving 101."** Light dinner snacks provided. *6–7:15 p.m., The Gilbert Residence, 203 S. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free. Preregistration required. 998–9336.*

Native Plant Exchange and Sale: Wild Ones. All invited to bring in plants native to the area to swap with other local gardeners. Also, sale of native flowers, vines, woody plants, and shrubs from the Native Plant Nursery. Advance orders available. *6:45 p.m., Native Plant Nursery, 3052 Nordman (south off Packard just west of Platt). Free admission. 662–9997.*

★**"K-9 Search and Rescue": Arrow Communication Association Amateur Radio Club.** Club member Miro Faouzi discusses the importance of amateur radio in police dog operations. Preceded by "ragchewing and socializing." *7 p.m., WCC Technical and Industrial Bldg., room 224, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors ($25 annual dues). 930–6564.*

★**"Parasites in You": Whole Foods Market.** Local chiropractor Darren Schmidt discusses some of the more than 1,000 parasites that can affect people, and how to eliminate them. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975–4500.*

★**2008 Ann Arbor Book Festival.** *May 14–19 (different locations).* Ann Arbor celebrates its love affair with books with a 5-day festival that kicks off today with a reception at the downtown Borders for authors of 6 of the 2008 Michigan Notable Books, including northern Michigan journalist **Mike Fornes** *(Mackinac Bridge: A 50-Year Chronicle, 1957–2007),* ESPN.com columnist (and former Great Lakes Indoor Football League player) **Ted Kluck** *(Paper Tiger: One Athlete's Journey to the Underbelly of Pro Football),* Detroit artist **Tyree Guyton** *(Connecting Dots: Tyree Guyton's Heidelberg Project),* architecture historian **Diane Maddex** *(Alden B. Dow: Midwestern Modern),* **John Otterbacher** *(Sailing Grace),* and PBS cooking show host **Eric Villegas** *(Fork in the Road with Eric Villegas).* Also tonight, at 7–8:30 p.m. at the AADL Pittsfield Branch, a slide-illustrated talk by University of Arizona entomology professor Stephen Buchmann on **"Disappearing Honeybees and Bumblebees: What's Happening to Our Pollinators?"** The festival also includes an opening reception at the Ann Arbor District Library on May 16, the premiere of the film adaptation of local writer Laura Kasischke's *The Life Before Her Eyes* on May 16, a street fair on May 17, and an author home tour and an antiquarian book fair on May 18 (see listings). Also, a **Language & Literacy Sym-**

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posium ($10 by reservation at 994–8100) at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District on May 15, 4:30–8 p.m., and a **Writers Conference** ($100 in advance only at aabookfestival.org) on the U-M campus, May 18, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Also, in conjunction with the festival, a **scavenger hunt** to area bookstores and libraries (May 1–17), an opening reception for the traveling exhibit *Up North with the Hemingways* on May 9, and readings in local bookstores on May 12, 13, 14, 17, & 18 (see listings). *Note:* A complete, updated schedule of events is available at aabookfestival.org. *7–8:30 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty, & AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 369–3366.*

★**"Freedom, Slavery, and the Roots of American Music": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk, with musical examples, by veteran Detroit blues and jazz singer-guitarist **Ray Kamalay.** *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Fiction Readers Groups: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Water for Elephants,*** Sara Gruen's acclaimed novel about a nonagenarian circus veteran recalling his colorful history in a Depression-era traveling circus. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Kathi Appelt: Waters Place Borders/Ann Arbor Book Festival.** This children's book writer from Texas reads from ***The Underneath,*** her harrowing yet sweet new tale about the power of love and hate. *7:30 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★**History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join local physician Bernard Sivak in a discussion of David Oshinsky's Pulitzer Prize–winning ***Polio: An American Story.*** *7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369–2499.*

★**"Inca Sites and Pre-Inca Cultures of Peru": Michigan Archaeological Society.** Slide presentation by club member Laurel Heyman. *7:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum Paleontology Classroom, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 995–8806.*

"Beethoven Sonatas, Part 3": Kerrytown Concert House. Violinist **Aaron Berofsky** and pianist **Phillip Bush,** both U-M music professors, perform Beethoven's Sonatas no. 6 in F Major, no. 8 in C Minor *(Pathetique)*, and no. 9 in E-flat Major. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Utah Phillips Fund-Raiser: The Ark. This benefit for the beloved folksinger whose failing health forced him to retire last year features a host of area and local performers. **Garnet Rogers** is a veteran Canadian folkie known for his resonant baritone and his poetic, emotionally potent original songs who accompanies himself on guitar, fiddle, flute, and synthesizer. **Len Wallace** is an accomplished accordionist from Windsor who specializes in political songs about workers' struggles, Central American solidarity, disarmament, and social justice. WDET *Folks like Us* host **Matt Watroba** is a songster with a sweet tenor voice who accompanies himself on guitar and punctuates his performance with sharply humorous observations. **Mick Lane** is a west Michigan union organizer and folksinger whose repertoire mixes labor songs with Irish and Scottish tunes. Also, local singer-songwriters **Chris Buhalis** (see 6 Tuesday) and **Eleni Kelakos,** an L.A. transplant who sings her songs about troubling matters like spousal abuse and gang violence in a luminous voice that *Music Reviews Quarterly* describes as possessing "an almost shocking clarity, unlike any singer since Joan Baez." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 14, 22, & 29.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Jewish Community Center. "Jewish Film Festival." See Events listing above. Mich., 2, 5, & 8 p.m.
MTF. "Young at Heart" (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

15 THURSDAY

★**Senior Housing Awareness Week: Housing Bureau for Seniors.** See 9 Friday. Today: **"Memory Loss: Making Decisions about Living Arrangements and Care."** Refreshments. *9:30–11 a.m.,*

Pioneer High School presents its musical extravaganza "Picnic Pops" May 17.

Hillsdale Terrace Retirement Community, 1939 Jackson Ave. Free. Preregistration required. 998–9336.

★23rd Annual Ann Arbor Springtime Invitational Figure Skating Championship: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. *May 15–18.* Over 800 skaters ages 6 to adult from as far away as Colorado and Minnesota compete in solo, pairs, couples, and ice dancing categories in this USFSA-sanctioned competition. Exciting finals are spread out over all 4 days, mostly toward the end of each day's competitions, with the bulk of finals on Sunday. *Tentative times: 10 a.m.–8 p.m. (May 15), 8 a.m.–8 p.m. (May 16 & 17), & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (May 18). Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 662–3925.*

★"Summer Celebrations": International Neighbors. All women invited to enjoy an indoor picnic and learn about the history and traditions surrounding 3 American summertime holidays, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day. Participants encouraged to bring a sweet or savory treat (meatless and without nuts) to pass. International Neighbors is a 49-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 663–3989.*

"Jewish Film Festival": Jewish Community Center. See 11 Sunday. Today: ***Six Days*** (2 p.m.) is Ilan Ziv's 2007 documentary about how the 1967 Arab-Israeli War remade the Middle East. Followed by discussion. ***Praying with Lior*** (5 p.m.) is Ilana Trachtman's 2007 engrossing documentary about a Jewish boy with Down syndrome who spends his life praying with utter abandon. Followed by a discussion led by the director. ***Nina's Home*** (8 p.m.) is Richard Dembo's 2005 drama about life at one of the halfway houses the French set up after WW II for Jewish children who had survived the Holocaust. French, subtitles. Followed by discussion. 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

★"Maps of Africa": U-M Map Library. Display of maps of Africa and related books from the 16th century to the present. Refreshments. *4–7 p.m., Graduate Library Map Library (8th floor), 920 North University. Free. 764–0407.*

U-M Baseball vs. Northwestern. *May 15 & 17 (single games) and May 16 (doubleheader). 6:30 p.m. (May 15), 4:05 p.m. (May 16), & 1 p.m. (May 17), Ray Fisher Stadium. $5 (youths age 12 & under, $3; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

★Ann Arbor Society for Origami. All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975–4669.*

★"Correct and Prevent Foot Problems": Whole Foods Market. Talk by local personal trainer Ann-Margaret Giovino. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975–4500.*

★"How to Shape Personal and Family-Based Stories": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by **Donald Davis,** a very popular storyteller from North Carolina whose stories include traditional mountain lore and contemporary tales about his neighbors and kin. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★"Deir Yassin Remembered": Ann Arbor Middle East Film Society. Screening of this documentary about the survivors and children of survivors of a massacre, a month before the establishment of Israel, of some 100 Arab residents of a village located on high ground between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Followed by discussion. *7 p.m., Michigan Union Anderson Room. Free; donations appreciated. 668–1358.*

★Upper School Instrumental Concert: Greenhills School. Deborah Henderson, Neil Donato, and Ben Cohen conduct the upper school orchestra, chamber orchestra, wind ensemble, and the choir in a program TBA. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205–4057.*

Matthew Ryan vs. The Silver State: The Ark. Working-class alt-country by this Nashville-based band led by Ryan, a singer-songwriter who grew up in Chester, Pennsylvania. Opening act is **Dee Graham,** a veteran roots-rock singer-songwriter from Austin, Texas, and former member of Alejandro Escovedo's True Believers whose music also draws on blues, country, and even folk. He has collaborated with everyone from John Doe and Patty Smyth to Michelle Shocked, and since undertaking a solo career in the late 90s, he has released several critically acclaimed CDs. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jarrod Harris: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 15–17.* Ann Arbor debut of this fast-rising young Atlanta observational humorist, a favorite of Stephen Colbert known for his long-winded, sarcastic tirades that mix together the autobiographical and the abstract. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

★"Moonshadow Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Slow-, moderate-, and fast-paced rides, 8–24 miles, along the Gallup Park pathway. Weather permitting. *10 p.m., Mitchell Field parking lot (east end), Fuller Rd. Free. 973–9225.*

FILMS

Jewish Community Center. "Jewish Film Festival." See Events listing above. Mich., 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

MTF. "Young at Heart" (Stephen Walker, 2008). See 2 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

16 FRIDAY

★Bike to Work Day Ride and Rally: Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month." All invited to join one of several bike convoys to ride to City Hall for a rally hosted by mayor John Hieftje with free Zingerman's coffee & bagels and drawings for commuter bikes donated by local shops. Giveaways. *8–9 a.m. (7:30 a.m. departure), departure locations TBA at getdowntown.org/bike. Free. 214–0100.*

★Senior Housing Awareness Week: Housing Bureau for Seniors. See 9 Friday. Today: **"Memory and Aging: Advances and Opportunities."** Light dinner snacks provided. *10 a.m.–noon, Silver Maples Senior Retirement Community, 100 Silver Maples off Old Jackson Road east of M-52, Chelsea. Free. Preregistration required. 998–9336.*

★"24-Hour Peace Generator": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to stop by for 30 minutes or more for silent meditation on world peace, forgiveness, cooperation, and joy. Refreshments. *6 p.m. until 6 p.m. May 17, Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free. 971–8576.*

★2008 Ann Arbor Book Festival. See 14 Wednesday. Tonight: an **author reception** features a chance to meet several of the writers attending the festival. Also, classical and folk music by harpist Deborah Gabrion. Refreshments. *6–7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 369–3366.*

"Meet Erika Barbieri": Zingerman's Delicatessen. This balsamic vinegar maker from Modena, Italy, discusses and offers taste samples of the extraordinary vinegars her family has been making for generations. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $20 in advance, $25 at the door. 663–3354.*

★"Thank God for Evolution!": First Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Itinerant preacher and inspirational speaker Michael Dowd presents a talk based on his recent book that reconciles religion and science. *7–9 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Free. 665–6158.*

Spelling Bee: Family Learning Institute. Three-member teams representing local organizations, nonprofits, and businesses vie for a trophy. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, and nonalcoholic beverages included. Proceeds benefit the Family Learning Institute, a local nonprofit devoted to improving reading, writing, and communication skills of local low-income students in grades 4–8. *7–11 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $35 available in advance only. 995–6816.*

★"Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan. All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts such as the Srimad Bhagavatam, on Shavite, Tantric, and Bhakti traditions, and on the writings of poet/saints such as Kabir, Tulsidas, and Mirabai. Accompanied by live music based on Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. *7:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

Student Productions: Pioneer High School Theater Guild. *May 16–18.* Pioneer High School students perform 5 of their original short plays and ***A Very Star Wars Christmas,*** a new play written and directed by local playwright Joseph Zettelmaier. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Little Theater, 601 W. Stadium at Main. $7 (students and Pioneer staff, $5). 994–2120.*

★Ann Arbor Train & Trolley Watchers. Slide-illustrated talks by club members Steve Kindschy on railroad operations in **"The Corn Belt"** and Steve Sobel on **"Michigan and Ontario Railroading."** *8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church social hall, 306 N. Division ("just up the hill from the Amtrak station"). Free. 971–8329.*

"Lager for Lag B'Omer": Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society Fund-Raiser. Ashley's owner Jeff More hosts a tasting of beers brewed locally and around the area. With Zingerman's breads and cheeses. All invited. *8–10 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $35. 975–9872.*

Beginners Ballroom Dance Party: Come Dancing School of Ballroom Dancing. Dancing to recorded music on a huge dance floor. The program begins with an informal 30-minute American rumba lesson. Refreshments. *8–9:30 p.m., Come Dancing, 7025 E. Michigan (Country Creek Plaza), Saline. $10. 944–1888.*

2008 Ann Arbor Book Festival. See 14 Wednesday. Tonight: premiere screening of ***The Life Before Her Eyes,*** Vadim Perelman's film adaptation of award-winning local fiction writer Laura Kasischke's novel about an adolescent girl who survives a horrifying shooting only to become a middle-aged mom adrift and slowly keeling over in the calm but shadowy waters of a seemingly perfect life. It stars Uma Thurman and Evan Rachel Wood. The screening is followed by

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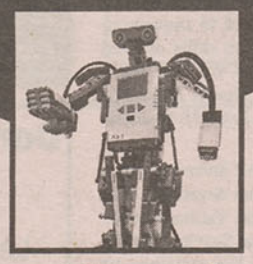
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16 FRIDAY *continued*

a panel discussion with Kasischke and others involved in making the film. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. $15 (students & seniors, $12; Michigan Theater members, $10) in advance at ticketweb.com and Liberty Street Borders, and at the door. 369–3366.*

"Hometown Hootenanny": Avalon Housing. Dancing to 2 top-notch local bands. **Billy King & the Idylls** is a local country-flavored pop-folk band led by singer-songwriter and guitarist King. **Orpheum Bell** is a local self-styled acoustic "country and eastern" quintet whose music pairs country-folk rhythms with Gypsy melodies, drawing on a diverse range of influences from the Carter Family, Grandpa Jones, and Gillian Welch to Kurt Weill, Tom Waits, and the Pogues. Its core sound blends vocals, accordion, guitar, and double bass, with additional texture and luster from violins, clarinet, percussion, and autoharp. Also, a fast-paced auction of donated items from local businesses, including Frog Holler Farm heirloom bedding plants, a Jiffy Mix sampler, Sweet Gem Confections treats, grass fed lamb, fresh eggs and milk, and more. Cash bar. A benefit for Avalon Housing, a local nonprofit agency that currently owns and manages over 173 units of affordable housing for low-income individuals and families in 15 sites scattered around town. *8–11 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. $15 minimum donation in advance and at the door. 663–5858.*

Kat Eggleston: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Veteran Chicago folksinger with a pure, powerful alto voice whose songs balance a melodic sweetness with a sharp-witted emotional directness. She accompanies herself on guitar and hammered dulcimer. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $12 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Otis Taylor: The Ark. This blues veteran spent nearly 2 decades as a successful antiques dealer before returning to his music in 1995, and in 2002 he won the W. C. Handy Award for Best New Artist. His music is distinguished by his haunting, chillingly deliberate vocals and his piercing lyrics drawing on his experience and heritage as an African American. He's also much more stylistically adventurous than most bluesmen: his 2003 CD, *Truth Is Not Fiction,* which has been nominated for 2 Handy awards, employs experimental, sometimes psychedelic textures and droning harmonies to create what Taylor calls "trance music," and his new CD, *Recapturing the Banjo,* is a collaboration with several fellow blues revivalists—Keb' Mo', Corey Harris, Alvin Youngblood Hart, Guy Davis, and Don Vappie—that explores the stylistic and rhythmic versatility of African American banjo music. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Dance Ensemble of Michigan. Studio 1 director TeDee Theofil directs this independent local ensemble of 30 young dancers in a program celebrating the company's 14th anniversary with jazz dance works by Theofil and local choreographers R. Brown, Lonnie Poupard, and Cristen Zeisler. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $20 in advance at Studio 1 (220 S. Main) and Kilwin's Chocolate Shoppe, and at the door. $10 student & senior rush tickets available at the door only. 995–1747.*

★"Sneak Peak Open Rehearsal": People Dancing. This local modern dance company previews works from the program of its August concert. *8 p.m., Arts in Motion Dance Studio, 2841 Boardwalk. Free. 368–7573.*

"Bigfoot Stole My Wife": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. *May 16–18.* Cassie Mann directs local actors in fiction writer Ron Carlson's series of 6 comic monologues based on tabloid headlines, such as "I Ate My Best Friend's Brain" and "The Tablecloth of Turin." Cast: Thom Johnson, Pete Niedbala, Kristen Stelter, Deb Wood, Andy Jentzen, Brian Harcourt, and Matt Steward. *8 p.m., AACT Studio, 322 W. Ann. Tickets $10 & $15 in advance and at the door. 971–2228.*

"The Crucible": Dexter Community Players. See 9 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jarrod Harris: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 973–1933.*

"May Madness": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *May 16–19 (different locations).* Four days of tango dance parties. Preceded by tango lessons ($20 & up), 8–9:30 p.m. *9:45 p.m.–1 a.m., Michigan League Ballroom. $15 (students, $10). 973–2338.*

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, Student Astronomy Society members give short presentations on a variety of astronomy topics. *10 p.m.–midnight, 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left to the fifth floor). Free. 764–3440.*

FILMS

Ann Arbor Book Festival. "The Life Before Her Eyes" (Vadim Perelman, 2008). See Events listing above. Mich., 8 p.m. **Borders Waters Place. "101 Dalmatians."** Screening of either the animated or the live Disney film. FREE. 997–8884. Borders (3140 Lohr Rd.), 7 p.m. **Dance Gallery Foundation. "Swing Time"** (George Stevens, 1936). Classic B&W Jerome Kern & Dorothy Fields musical starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. FREE. 747–8885. McCray Studio (815 Wildt, next to Dance Gallery Studio), 7 p.m.

17 SATURDAY

Ann Arbor Antiques Market. *May 17 & 18.* From its small Farmers' Market niche 30 years ago, this show has grown to national importance, with more than 300 antiques and collectibles dealers. It's the nation's largest monthly antiques show, and some say the best. No reproductions are allowed, experts check every booth, and the items' authenticity is guaranteed. Deliveries available. Food concessions. No pets. Managed by Nancy and Woody Straub. *8 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $6 (children age 12 & under accompanied by an adult, free). Free parking. (937) 875–0808 (before the show), 429–3145 (day of show).*

★"May Morning Bird Walk": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike among the lake, woods, and fields to look for birds. Bring binoculars and a bird book if you have them. *8–10 a.m., Independence Lake County Park Gamble Group Center, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. Vehicle entrance fees: $5/day ($2.50 for seniors age 62 & over), $25/year. 971–6337.*

★Car Show: Varsity Ford. Classic car owners invited to show up in their rides and put them on display. All invited to cruise through the exhibit or view it on foot. Also, an **indoor swap meet** for buying, trading, or selling car parts and auto stuff. Raffle, refreshments, and an appearance by Detroit-area oldies DJ **Rockin' Ronnie.** Proceeds benefit U-M Mott Children's Hospital. *8 a.m.–4 p.m. (swap setup, 7 a.m.), Varsity Ford, 3480 Jackson Rd. Free. Donations accepted. 996–2300.*

"18th Annual Heart and Sole Race": Chelsea Community Hospital. 5- and 10-km runs, a 2-mile run/walk, and a 5-km walk to benefit the hospital. 3-deep awards per 10-year age group for the 5 km and 10 km, and awards for top 10 2-mile runners and walkers. *8:30 a.m., Chelsea Community Hospital, 775 S. Main, Chelsea. $20 (kids age 12 & younger, $12; families, $45) in advance; $25 (kids age 12 & younger, $15; families, $50) on race day. 475–4100.*

★Pre-Team State Gymnastics Meet: GymAmerica. *May 17 & 18.* More than 400 young Michigan gymnasts converge for a 2-day meet. *8 a.m.–9:30 p.m., EMU Bowen Field House, Ypsilanti. Free. 971–1667.*

★20th Annual Downtown Blooms & Cleanup: Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. Hundreds of volunteers usually turn out for a morning of sweeping, trash collecting, flower planting, and other tasks to spruce up the downtown. Bring work gloves, brooms, and planting trowels, if you have them. All volunteers receive a free pizza-and-pop lunch at noon. *9 a.m.–noon (check-in 8–9 a.m.), meet at Liberty Plaza, Liberty at Division. Free. Preregistration requested. 994–4176.*

★Restoration Work Day: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. *9 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647–8528.*

★Adopt-a-Park Kickoff: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. All invited to join their neighbors in planting, mulching, and cleaning up a city park near your neighborhood. Participating parks include Burns, Fuller, Hannah Nature Area, Hunt,

Huron Highlands, Lansdowne, Liberty Plaza, Maryfield-Wildwood, Wellington, and Wurster. *9 a.m.–noon, various park locations. Free. 996–3266.*

★**Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division.** See 3 Saturday. Today: a trip to **Mary Beth Doyle Park** (formerly Brown Park) to help set out native plants around the entrance. *9 a.m.–noon, Mary Beth Doyle Park (meet in the parking lot at the Packard Rd. entrance between Stone School Rd. and Platt Rd.). Free. 996–3266.*

Garage Sale: Old West Side Association. *May 17 & 18.* Many Old West Side residents hold garage sales for 2 days. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Old West Side neighborhood. Free admission. 763–4190.*

"Walk & Wag": Huron Valley Humane Society. 300 local dogs usually attend this fund-raising walk and dog activity and game fest. In addition to a leisurely stroll through scenic park trails, participants of both species can watch the agile area performing dog troupe **Rock and Roll Canines** race gleefully though obstacle courses to music. Emcee is 107one FM DJ **Martin Bandyke.** For dogs, there's a **bone 'n' ball treasure hunt** in a hay maze, a chance to snag a treat from a treat-heaped kiddie pool, a "sit and stay" contest with prizes, the popular and truly hilarious **bobbing for wieners** (bring a camera), and pawdicures. For people, there's a **raffle** ($1,000 first prize), a **pet look-alike** contest, face painting, and kids' crafts. Busch's hot dogs and snacks are available. Proceeds benefit the Huron Valley Humane Society. *9 a.m.–12:30 p.m., County Farm Park. Pledges or donation. 662–5585.*

Carol Doak: Greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild. Talk by this quilter, writer, and quilting instructor known for her expertise in using paper piecing to create intricate, beautiful quilts. Followed at 11 a.m. by a member "show and tell" and sale of quilting supplies, fabrics, and books, and workshops. Display of quilts to be donated to SafeHouse. Raffle. Lunch available. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $10 (members, free). Wheelchair-accessible. 878–6396.*

★**Flower Sale: Carpenter Elementary School.** A sale of flats, potted plants, hanging plants, and baskets. A benefit for the Carpenter PTO. *10 a.m.–3 p.m., Carpenter parking lot, 4250 Central Blvd. Free admission. 971–5903.*

★**Antique Tractor, Truck and Farm Equipment Show & Annual Meeting: Waterloo Farm Museum.** *May 17 & 18.* Display of more than 100 vintage vehicles from collectors and clubs around Michigan. Also, a chance to tour the exhibit with Farm Museum members after the annual business meeting (with a free lunch) on May 18. *10 a.m.–5 p.m. (May 17) & noon–5 p.m. (May 18), Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. 5 miles north from I-94 exit 153), Waterloo Recreation Area. Free. 426–9135.*

★**2008 Ann Arbor Book Festival.** See 14 Wednesday. Today: An all-day street fair on North University between State and Fletcher features the display and sale of thousands of books at booths sponsored by local booksellers, publishers, and literacy organizations. Also, readings, signings, demos, and performances, and other book-related displays and activities in various locations.

The Michigan League Michigan Room stage kicks off with **"Books Change Lives"** (11 a.m.), a panel discussion with Community High School English teacher Judith DeWoskin, *Funny in Farsi* author Firoozeh Dumas, and poet, graphic novelist, and artist Danny Simmons. NPR political correspondent Don Gonyea moderates **"Faith and Politics"** (2–3 p.m.), a panel with Millsaps College (Jackson, Mississippi) history professor Robert McElvaine *(Grand Theft Jesus: The Hijacking of Religion in America)*, journalist Christine Wicker *(The Fall of the Evangelical Nation: The Surprising Crisis Inside the Church)*, and Columbia University religious history professor Randall Balmer *(God in the White House)*. U-M English professor **Nicholas Delbanco** reads from ***The Count of Concord*** (3:30–4:30 p.m.), his historical novel about the 18th-century American polymath Benjamin Thompson, and a **"Pitch Panel"** (5–6 p.m.) offers aspiring writers a chance to pitch their book ideas (for $10) to a panel of editors, agents, and writers.

The Michigan League Kalamazoo Room stage features a reading by Turkish-born English novelist **Maureen Freely** from her new novel ***Enlightenment*** (12:30–1:30 p.m.) and an interview with graphic novelist **Paul Hornschemeier** (3:30–4:30 p.m.).

The Michigan League Hussey Room stage features a reading by **Firoozeh Dumas** from her memoir ***Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America*** (2–3 p.m.) and local young writers from 826michigan present their **one-act plays based on Hemingway stories** (5–6 p.m.).

The Gale Stage on North University begins with a reading by award-winning local storyteller Laura

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17 SATURDAY *continued*

Pershin Raynor of Giles Andreae's children's book ***Giraffes Can't Dance*** (12:30–1:30 p.m.). The reading is accompanied by a performance by the Ann Arbor Civic Ballet. Local poet **Raymond McDaniel** *(see review, p. 79)* reads from his new collection ***Saltwater Empire*** (2–3 p.m.). NPR political correspondent Don Gonyea moderates a panel discussion on **"Election Year Issues"** (3:30–4:30 p.m.) with journalist Daniel Radosh *(Rapture Ready!)*, Earth Works founder John Javna *(50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth)*, and University of Iowa political science professor Michael Lewis Beck *(The American Voter Revisited)*. **"Going to the Dogs"** (5–6 p.m.) features readings by New Orleans fiction writer **Ken Foster** from his acclaimed essay collection ***Dogs I Have Met*** and by children's book writer **Geri Taeckens** from ***Walking along with My Dog***.

The Borders Stage on North University begins with **"Selecting the Best Children's Literature"** (12:30–1:30 p.m.), a panel discussion moderated by children's librarian Ieva Bates with local Beatrix Potter expert Liz Elling, U-M Residential College children's literature lecturer Liz Goodenough, and longtime Borders children's book buyer Ruta Drummond. Also, Michigan Radio *All Things Considered* host **Charity Nebbe** reads from her debut children's book ***Our Walk in the Woods*** (3:30–4:30 p.m.).

The State Street Area Association Stage on Ingalls Mall opens with **"Authors as Environmental Activists"** (12:30–1:30 p.m.), a panel discussion moderated by U-M English professor John Knott with University of Arizona entomology professor Stephen Buchmann *(The Forgotten Pollinators)*, local fiction writer and essayist Janet Kauffman *(Trespassing: Dirt Stories and Field Notes)*, activist Diane Wilson *(An Unreasonable Woman: A True Story of Shrimpers, Politicos, Polluters, and the Fight for Seadrift, Texas)*, and Earth Works founder John Javna and his daughter Sophie Javna *(50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Planet)*. Teen fiction writer **Deb Caletti** (2–3 p.m.), a National Book Award finalist, discusses her work and announces the winners of the Ann Arbor District Library **teen writing contest awards.** Also, a **celebrity spelling bee** (5–6 p.m.).

The Michigan Humanities Council Stage on North University includes **"Future of the Book"** (2–3 p.m.), a panel discussion with National Endowment of the Arts representatives David Kipen and Sunil Iyengar, U-M Sweetland Writing Center lecturer Naomi Silver, and U-M School of Information grad student Buzzy Nielsen, and **"Books in Translation"** (3:30–4:30 p.m.), a panel discussion moderated by Shaman Drum Bookshop owner Karl Pohrt with Maureen Freely, translator of Nobel laureate Ohran Pamuk's *Snow*, and National Endowment of the Arts literature director David Kipen, who recently translated a comic novella by Cervantes.

The ProQuest-CSA Stage on North University features a reading by novelist **Lisa Tucker** from ***The Cure for Modern Life*** (12:30–1:30 p.m.), her new novel about a divorced couple—a medical ethicist and a pharmaceutical executive—who have become professional enemies, and **"Mom Power Hour"** (3:30–4:30 p.m.), a panel discussion with journalist Julie Halpert *(Making Up with Mom)*, novelist and screenwriter Jane Bernstein *(Rachel in the World)*, and Mydols member and memoirist Judy Davids *(Rock Star Mommy)*. A performance by the **Mydols** (5–6 p.m.), an all-moms Detroit garage band whose music comes from "somewhere between soccer and psychosis," closes out the ProQuest-CSA Stage.

The WEMU Stage on North University includes a presentation of **children's writing** (12:30–1:30 p.m.), a reading by New York poet and graphic novelist **Danny Simmons** (2–3 p.m.), poetry readings by local teens from **Volume Poetry Project** (3:30–4:30 p.m.), and the performance poet and songwriter **Regie Gibson** (5–6 p.m.). *10 a.m.–6 p.m., North University area. Free. 369–3366.*

★**"Picnic Pops": Pioneer High School.** An all-day musical bonanza of performances by local middle and high school bands and orchestras that an organizer calls "Ann Arbor's biggest block party." Also, a chance to meet the new Skyline High School's 1st band director, Jason Smith. Brats and other picnic treats available. Rain or shine (it's under a big tent). *10:30 a.m.–6 p.m., PHS, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free admission. 663–1910 ext. 103.*

★**"Rockin' Rocks": Waterloo Recreation Area.** Park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh presents some fun facts about the rocks just outside the Discovery Center. *11 a.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170. 475–3170.*

"5th Annual Tour of Remodeled Homes": National Association of the Remodeling Industry. *May 17 & 18.* Tour of 9 homes in Washtenaw County with remodeled kitchens, baths, sunrooms, and more. *Noon–6 p.m., various locations. $10. 665–3055.*

Southern Michigan Orienteering Club. See 10 Saturday. *Noon–2 p.m., Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. $10 (members, $5). 761–6980.*

★**6th Annual Plant Swap: Garden Faerie.** All invited to swap labeled annuals, perennials, shrubs, veggies, herbs, seeds, and gardening tools, ornaments, magazines, and books. Cake and lemonade provided. Rain or shine. *12:30–1:30 p.m., Southeast Area Park, Platt at Ellsworth. Free. 975–6865.*

★**Ann Arbor Women's Rugby vs. Indianapolis Rugby Football Club.** *1 p.m., Riverside Park (off Wall St.). Free. 330–1177.*

★**"Pokemon Tournament": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids and adults invited to bring their Game Boy Advance and their copy of Pokemon (or use the AADL House Pokemon) to compete for prizes in a tournament. *1–5 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**Steve Lehto: Barnes & Noble/Ann Arbor Book Festival.** This Farmington Hills attorney reads from and discusses ***Death's Door: The Truth Behind Michigan's Largest Mass Murder,*** his book about a fatal 1913 stampede of people fleeing what they thought was a burning building. Signing. *2–4 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

"The Crucible": Dexter Community Players. See 9 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

★**"Buddha's Birthday Celebration": Zen Buddhist Temple.** *May 17 & 18.* The most festive occasion of the Buddhist year begins today with the **7th Annual Buddha's Birthday Poetry Event.** All poets are invited to read a poem. Today's events conclude with an **"Evening Celebration"** (6 p.m.) that includes a buffet with vegetarian hors d'oeuvres, entrees, and dessert. Followed by a program of music and storytelling by performers TBA. Also, on both days tea is served, and new and used Buddhist books are on sale. *2:30–8:30 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. All events are free, except tonight's celebration (adults, $12; students, $6; small children, $5; families, $30). Tickets available in advance and at the door. 761–6520.*

★**Dexter Community Orchestra.** *See review, p. 72.* Donald Parrish conducts the orchestra in "Hoe-Down" from Copland's *Rodeo*, Ravel's arrangement of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, and the world premiere of DCO cellist and U-M music grad Erika Nelson's *Locusta*, a piece named after Locusta of Gaul, an infamous poisoner who allegedly killed Emperor Claudius. Also, Rachmaninoff's Concerto no. 1 in F-sharp Minor with pianist **J. Bennett,** winner of the DCO Young Artist Competition. *3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south off Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 426–2734, 355–0725.*

"Kids Night Out": Ann Arbor Quest Martial Arts. Kids ages 7 & up invited to try a martial arts class, play games, and do crafts. Dinner. Refreshments. *5–9 p.m., Quest Martial Arts, 2111 Packard. $20. Preregistration required. 332–1800.*

"Teen Game Night": Jewish Community Center. All teens invited to play Dance Dance Revolution, Guitar Hero, Mario DDR, Wii Sports, and other arcade games. Also, a pizza dinner and a movie TBA. *6:30–10 p.m., JCC gym, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $24 (JCC members, $20). Reservations required. 971–0990.*

"Bonfire in the River and Full Moon Paddle": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to paddle around Argo Pond in the moonlight and with a blazing fire floating in the middle of the pond to observe birds and other animals as they prepare for their nocturnal lives. *7–10 p.m., Argo Canoe Livery, 1055 Longshore Dr. (north off Moore from Broadway at Maiden Lane). $9 (includes paddleboat rental) & $18 (includes canoe or kayak rental). 994–2778, 662–9319.*

"Frog Fest": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation). Family-oriented program includes practice making frog calls followed by a walk to the pond to listen to the frogs and toads calling each other. Also, games and other activities to discover more about frogs, toads, and salamanders. *7–9 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6 (family, $25). Preregistration required. 997–1553.*

★**Grand Opening: Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair.** A robot dance-off and a robot-themed puppet show by local 826michigan youth writing center students to celebrate the opening of this shop in the 826michigan space. (See Marketplace Changes, p. 115.) Refreshments. *7–10 p.m., Liberty Street Robot, 115 E. Liberty. Free. 761–3463.*

"Wine, Word, & Song": Neutral Zone. Wine reception with performances by the Ann Arbor teen slam poetry team and various teen musicians. A benefit for the Neutral Zone. *7 p.m., 370 Meadow Creek*

Dr. (off Windycrest Dr. off Geddes). $75. Reservations required. 214–9995.

★6th Annual Taiwanese American Heritage Week Celebration Concert: Michigan Taiwanese American Organization. Local youth finalists in a MiTai music contest perform works for strings and piano. Also a performance by the U-M music school 2008 concerto competition winner, pianist **Ming-Hsiu Yen.** Followed by a reception. *7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. (off Earhart). Free. 469–4010.*

★Jandek: WCBN-FM. Extremely rare public appearance by this veteran musical project led by a virtually anonymous musician based in the Houston, Texas area—he's usually referred to by the name of his project, Jandek—who specializes in idiosyncratic, often atonal songs based on East Texas blues and folk traditions. Jandek has released more than 50 records over 30 years, including the recent *The Myth of Blue Icicles*. Jandek, who tonight plays electric bass, is joined by trumpeter James Cornish, harpsichordist (and U-M music professor) Christian Matjias, and improvisational dancer Boiba Bell. *7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Free. 763–3500.*

Student Productions: Pioneer Theater Guild. See 16 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner, Peter Baker, and Martha Vander Kolk call to music by Picks and Sticks. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Lesson at 7:30 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat, smooth-soled shoes. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 665–8863.*

★The Red Shuez: Barnes & Noble. Performance by the local brother-and-sister alt-folk duo of Aaron England and Heidi Guck. *8 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

BETTY: The Ark. This cabaret-style pop-rock quintet fronted by a trio of female vocalists is known for its brainy and bawdy blend of wild humor, trashy theatrics, and ironic original songs written from a deliciously ill-bred feminist perspective and often performed a cappella. Its music has been described as a cross between the B-52s, Joni Mitchell, and Parliament Funkadelic. A longtime local favorite, BETTY returns to town for the first time since 2005. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

KT Tunstall: Ann Arbor Summer Festival. Ann Arbor debut of this Scottish-born, Grammy-nominated pop-folk star, a singer-songwriter with a bluesy soulful voice whose live performances are chock full of jovial foot stomping. Though her style is a notably indefinable mix of musical genres, her strong rock 'n' roll persona has a BBC reviewer calling her a "young Chrissie Hynde." Opening act is Irish singer-songwriter **Paddy Casey**. The concert kicks off the Summer Festival, which hits full stride next month. *8 p.m., Power Center. $30–$40 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"Bigfoot Stole My Wife": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 16 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Jarrod Harris: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

International Folk Dancing. Dancing to live music by Dawn's Early Light. The program begins with a dance lesson. *8–11 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2625 Traver. $5–$10 (students, $3) donation. 995–0011.*

★"Full Moon Campfire": Superior Land Conservancy. All invited to enjoy a family-oriented campfire in one of the largest Conservancy-owned nature preserves in southeast Michigan. Bring campfire refreshments and lawn chairs; firewood appreciated. No pets. *9 p.m. (gate opens at 4 p.m.), LeFurge Woods, Prospect Rd. (½ mile north of Geddes), Superior Twp. Free. 484–6565.*

Mem Shannon: The Firefly Club. Funky New Orleans blues by a band led by this veteran deep-voiced blues singer, a former cab driver known for his commanding vocals, innovative guitar work, and fresh, intelligent original songs addressing the travails of contemporary life and politics. *9 p.m.–12 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets $15 at the door only. 665–9090.*

"May Madness": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. See 16 Friday. Tonight: a **tango dance party.** Preceded by tango lessons in the Michigan Union Anderson Room, noon–1:15 p.m., 1:30–2:45 p.m., and 3:15–4:30 p.m. Tonight's dance is followed by an **all-night tango party** (price TBA) at the Pittsfield grange, 1:30–5 a.m.). *9:30 p.m.–midnight, Michigan League Ballroom. $15 (students, $10). 973–2338.*

"Girls Night \aut\": Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. Performances by local blues-rock and folk-rock singer-songwriter **Tracy Mack** and Nashville alt-country singer-songwriter **Steff Mahan.** *10 p.m.–midnight, Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. $7 admission. 663–0036.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Life Before Her Eyes" (Vadim Perelman, 2008). *May 17–22.* Adaptation of the Laura Kasischke novel that premiered as part of the Ann Arbor Book Festival on May 16 (see listing). $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

18 SUNDAY

★"Magee Marsh, Crane Creek State Park": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS member Karen Markey leads a field trip to this Ohio state park 70 miles from Ann Arbor on the southern shore of Lake Erie, to look for migrating songbirds. Bring a lunch and something to drink; insect repellent recommended. Late afternoon return. *6 a.m., meet at Busch's, 2020 Plymouth Rd. at Green Rd., to carpool. Free. 994–3569.*

"26th Annual For Women Only 5K Run and Fitness Walk": Ann Arbor Track Club. Women and girls of all ages are invited to participate in a USATF/RRTC-certified 5-km run or fitness walk along a flat course on the campus of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Cash awards to overall, master, and grand master winners and awards for top 3 runners in 13 & under, 14–16, 17–19, and subsequent 5-year age divisions. Portion of the proceeds donated to Livestrong, SafeHouse Center, and Girls on the Run in Southeastern Michigan. *8:30 a.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Ellen Thomas Women's Health Center, 5301 Huron River Dr. Entry fee: $24 (age 15 & under, $21) online registration by noon May 16 at aatrackclub.org, $27 (age 15 & under, $24) by mail (to Carolin Dick, 1105 Westview Way, AA 48103) postmarked by May 13; $30 day of race. 663–5680.*

★"Hathaway House Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Fast-paced 85-mile ride to Blissfield for brunch at the 100-year-old Hathaway House restaurant. Also, a moderate-paced 65-mile ride to the same destination leaves at 9 a.m. from the municipal parking lot on Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., and a slow-paced 45-mile ride leaves at 10 a.m. from the city parking lot on US-12 in Clinton. *9 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 971–3610 (85-mile ride), (313) 562–9464 (65-mile ride), (517) 423–4702 (45-mile ride).*

★Mushroom Hunt: Michigan Mushroom Hunter's Club. All invited to join club members on a hunt for edible fungi. Bring a bag lunch, compass, whistle, basket, and knife. All mushrooms are evaluated by experts for edibility after the hunt. The club also sponsors numerous other hunts this month in surrounding counties (see sph.umich.edu/~kwcee/mmhc). *9 a.m., Bird Hills Park (meet at the Barton Dam parking lot on Huron River Dr.). Free to visitors; $15 annual dues. 426–6182.*

★"Buddha's Birthday Celebration": Zen Buddhist Temple. See 17 Saturday. Today's program begins at 9 a.m. with the telling of the story of Buddha's birth and the traditional "Bathing of Baby Buddha" with sweet tea. It is followed at 11 a.m. by the **"Peace and Happiness Street Parade"** for children of all ages. Kids invited to bring decorated bikes, strollers, hats, banners, and flags. At 1 p.m., a panel discussion on **"Buddhism in the Workplace"** with Odds and Eaves owner Lessy Bass, Snedicor Drycleaning owner Jim Gilligan, and Starbucks regional supervisor Matt Lecki. Followed by discussion. Also, an introductory lecture-demonstration on Zen meditation (3 p.m.) and an evening program (7:30 p.m.) that includes chanting and lighting of traditional lotus lanterns, along with scriptural readings by representatives from other area Buddhist groups. 9 a.m.–8:30 p.m.

★Great Strides Walk-a-Thon: Ann Arbor Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. After making a donation or raising pledges for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, walkers choose any distance up to 10 km and stroll around the park. Light snacks and beverages. Kids activities. Rain or shine. *11 a.m. (check-in at 10 a.m.), Gallup Park (west of Huron Pkwy.). Free. Pledge forms available at cff.org and (248) 269–8759.*

30th Annual Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair: Ann Arbor Antiquarian Booksellers Association/ Ann Arbor Book Festival. More than 40 dealers from 8 states offer manuscripts, vintage photos and prints, antique maps, and a wide array of old, rare,

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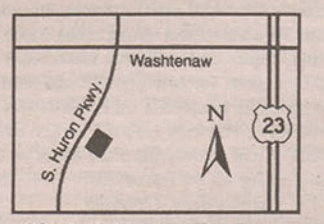

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curious, and fine books, including cookbooks, art books, long out-of-print children's books, first editions, early Americans, Michigan history, travel and exploration, and more. This popular annual event has established itself as one of the country's top regional antiquarian fairs. Admission charge benefits the U-M Clements Library. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $5 donation. 995–1891.*

2008 Ann Arbor Book Festival. See 14 Wednesday. Today: **"Author Home Tour."** Bus tour of former residences in the area of various notable writers, including W. H. Auden, Robert Frost, Arthur Miller, and others. *11:45 a.m. & 1:45 p.m., bus leaves from Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. $12. Preregistration required at aabookfestival.org. 369–3366.*

★**Canoe Race: Village of Manchester.** All invited to join or watch this thrilling 3-mile race down the River Raisin to Mill Pond near Main St., where most spectators congregate. Also, a sprint race for $3. *Noon, Fellows Bridge launch area on Sharon Valley Rd., Manchester. Free to spectators. $10 per canoeist in advance, $12 after May 16. Corporate class: $50 per boat. 428–7722.*

★**Solo & Ensemble Recitals: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Stephanie Weaver directs student soloists and ensembles in an eclectic program of classical, pop, and jazz, including some vocal music. *Noon–5 p.m., Concordia Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. Donations accepted. 995–4625.*

★**Sharon Mills Tours: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** *May 18 & 25.* WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads 30-minute tours around this park on the River Raisin that features a newly operational hydroelectric generator, a beautiful multicolored stone house, a wooden mill, and a former winery, plus spots for fishing, canoeing, and picnicking. *1 & 3 p.m., Sharon Mills Park, 5701 Sharon Hollow Rd. (between Pleasant Lake & Sharon Valley rds.), Manchester. Free. 971–6337.*

Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory. Docent-guided tours, about 30 minutes long, of the photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763–2230.*

★**"Dance Dance Revolution": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to compete in tournaments of this computer-guided movement game. Participants can compete by themselves in beginner and standard brackets or as a team in a parent & kid bracket. Prizes. *1–4 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**Organ Concert: Northside Presbyterian Church.** Organist Geoff Stanton and others play the church's new organ. Program TBA. *1 p.m., Northside Presbyterian, 1679 Broadway. Free. 663–5503.*

"Incredible Edibles Walk": Waterloo Natural History Association. Local wild foods aficionado Tom Jameson leads a hike to learn about edible wild plants available locally and then prepares some wild food dishes to sample. *1:30–3 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. $2 (family, $5; WNHA members, free). Space limited; preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

★**"Using the Internet for Genealogical Research": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by genealogist Dick Doherty. Followed by **"There Are No Dumb Questions in Genealogy,"** a Q&A with a panel of club members. *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

★**Ann Arbor Orchid Society.** Talk on a topic TBA by Florida research taxonomist and orchid expert Eric Christenson. Also, an orchid show-and-tell, orchid sales, a silent auction, raffles, and a chance to grill experts on problem plants. *1:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 663–0756.*

★**"Paved Country Roads Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast-, moderate-, and slow-paced training ride, 18–30 miles, along country roads west of town past farmland and lakes. Hilly Schneider Road is included in the longer routes. Optional stop at the Pleasant Lake Party Store. *2 p.m., meet at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Scio Church at Strieter (1 mile east of Parker Rd.), Scio Twp. Free. 662–0205.*

★**"Your Life Your Way: The Essential Guide for Women": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Michigan-based professional coactive coach Judith

Marcin Wasilewski Trio

Simple acoustic and beyond

Like so much else about culture and the arts in Poland, the story of jazz in that country reflects its complex history and politics. Banned during World War II, jazz was driven underground by the new Communist leaders. Only in 1955, when cultural policy was relaxed, could it flourish, and flourish it did—by the 1960s and 1970s the country had the richest jazz scene in Central Europe. Among the players who matured in that period, trumpeter Tomasz Stanko stands out as one who has achieved international status and recognition. In 1994 the great man of Polish jazz heard a trio of teenagers from the provincial city of Koszalin, and he was so taken by their talents that he immediately began to use them for film and theater music.

Pianist Marcin Wasilewski, bassist Slawomir Kurkiewicz, and drummer Michal Miskiewicz had created the collaborative New Acoustic Trio only a year earlier. By Polish and even European standards, their early success was impressive, as they earned awards at festivals in their native country and beyond and accumulated critical praise for their performances and recordings. At the turn of the century Stanko began to use them for his own international tours, and for the last eight years they have been his standard collaborators.

Stanko's record company, ECM, has just released *January,* the trio's second recording for the label, and is sponsoring an international tour to promote it. The group is now called the Marcin Wasilewski Trio, in recognition of the pianist's role as composer, but this remains very much a collaborative effort. Wasilewski and his friends have developed the particular jazz piano trio tradition that goes back, through Keith Jarrett, to Bill Evans. Evans broke with the concept of a piano backed by rhythm accompaniment to create a more collaborative way of interaction, with the bass and even the drums as equal musical partners. But unlike many of his American colleagues, Wasilewski has no interest in imitation; he has assimilated his influences and transformed them in a deeply personal manner. The same can be said of the trio as a whole. Their interaction is seamless and seemingly telepathic, with each instrument playing an equal part. After seventeen years of playing together one would expect no less, but, somewhat surprisingly, this has not led to routine repetition, and the group remains fresh and innovative to this day.

Wasilewski, Kurkiewicz, and Miskiewicz play emotionally complex music, with a preference for slow tempos and slowly developing themes that rely on shifting textures as much as on melodic development. Melodic playing predominates, and even the drums seem more a melodic rather than rhythm instrument, even at fast tempos. As a result, their performances are recitals rather than simply sequences of tunes, and the mood that they create draws the listeners into a unique emotional space and is best heard in small, intimate places. The Firefly Club is an ideal place for them, and they will be performing there on Saturday, May 24.

—Piotr Michalowski

Molner discusses this self-help book she cowrote with Lynn Hull. Signing. *2–4 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Power for the Parkinsons": Pittsfield Township Historical Society.** Screening of this film about rural life before and after electricity. *2 p.m., Pittsfield Community Center, 701 W. Ellsworth. Free. 434–4074.*

★**Enlightened Minds Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss Bruce Grierson's guidebook for making major life changes ***U-Turn: What If You Woke Up One Morning and Realized You Were Living the Wrong Life?*** *2 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All invited for an afternoon of games and contra and square dancing with callers John Freeman and David Park Williams and music by David West and Donna Baird. Followed by lemonade and Grange-baked cookies. *2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $12 per family. 769–1052.*

★**"The Life and Songs of Stephen Foster."** Ann Arborite **George Valenta** plays Morrison Foster, the beloved American songwriter Stephen Foster's last surviving sibling, who clears up myths about his brother and leads the audience in a sing-along of some of his most popular songs, like "Oh! Susanna" and "Camptown Races." Accompanist is pianist Erica Arnold. *2 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 995–8720.*

"The Impossible Dream": Ann Arbor Concert Band. James Nissen directs this local volunteer ensemble in a program highlighted by a performance of the first movement of Mozart's Concerto no. 2 in D Major featuring Livonia flutist **Ashley Harris,** winner of the Concert Band's recent young artist competition scholarship. Also, Copland's *Outdoor Overture*, the finale from Howard Hanson's Symphony no. 3, Grainger's *Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon,* Ron Nelson's *Rocky Point Holiday,* and highlights from Mitch Leigh's musical *Man of La Mancha. 2 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $5; children 12 & under, free) in advance and at the door. 434–7876.*

Student Productions: Pioneer High School Theater Guild. See 16 Friday. 2 p.m.

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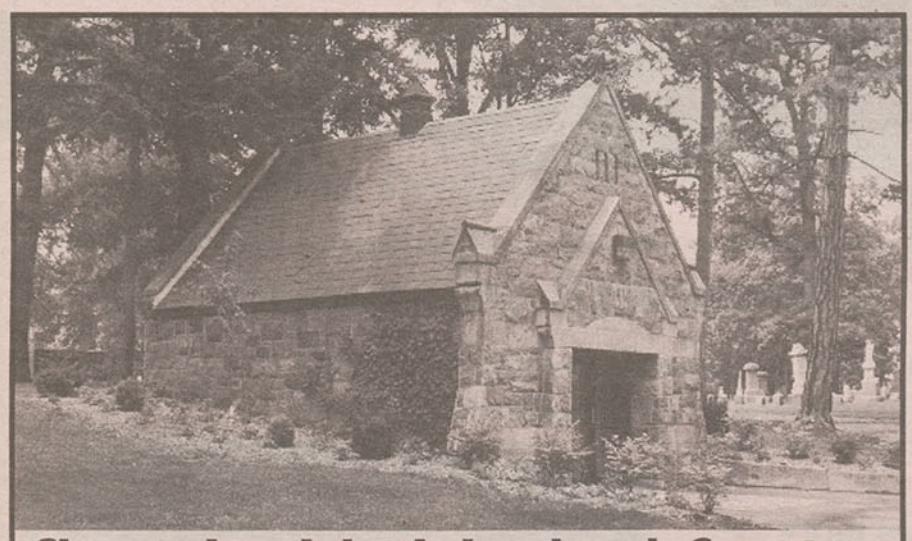

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18 SUNDAY *continued*

"Bigfoot Stole My Wife": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 16 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Arms and the Man": Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Writing as Spiritual Practice": First Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Talk by Evanston, Illinois, Unitarian Universalist minister Nancy Shaffer, author of the meditation manual *Instructions in Joy*. *3–5 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Free. 665–6158.*

★**Alison Weir: Liberty Borders/Ann Arbor Book Festival.** This acclaimed best-selling British historian reads from ***The Lady Elizabeth,*** her intriguing new novel about Elizabeth I. Signing. *3 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Radio Free Bacon": Zingerman's Roadhouse.** *Every Sunday beginning May 18.* Terry Farmer & the Roadhouse Revival Band, a local folk-flavored rock 'n' roll band, hosts a program of interviews, conversation, and comic sketches with various guest celebrities and performers. Streamed live on Ann Arbor Alive Internet radio at a3radio.com. Today's musical guests are **Jill Jack,** a sultry-voiced Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter whose music also draws freely on jazz and country flavors, and singer-songwriter **Billy Brandt,** the frontman of the Detroit-area country-rock band Grievous Angel. *3–4 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. Free. 663–3400.*

"Goldilocks and Red Riding Hood vs. the Monsters": Dreamland Theater. See 4 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

★**"Chef Alex's Organic Garden": Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor.** Talk by Zingerman's Roadhouse chef and Cornman Farms owner Alex Young. *4–6 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave. Free. 662–8661.*

★**"Organ Concert": St. Thomas the Apostle Church.** Lucia Campbell directs the choir, soloists, a trumpeter, and Timothy Tikker on the church's newly restored 1947 Casavant organ in a program of works by Mozart, Brahms, Thompson, Stephenson, Handel, and others. *4 p.m., St. Thomas, State at Kingsley. Free. 761–8606.*

★**Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***In the City of Shy Hunters,*** Tom Spanbauer's novel about a sexually insecure young man who moves to Manhattan and has an affair with an African American drag queen. *4:30–6:30 p.m., Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763–4186.*

"Sacred Storytelling": Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County. Emily Wilson-Tobin directs a dinner theater production of local playwright Jeffrey Steiger's play based on dialogues with local faith groups. Also, an Indian meal prepared by members of Chinmaya Mission, a local Hindu congregation. *5:30 p.m., Chinmaya Mission, 4760 Packard. $15–$75 (kids under 12, $8) in advance and at the door. 424–1535.*

★**"Land Use for a Healthy Watershed": Huron River Watershed Council.** All invited to discuss sustainable land use. Snacks provided. *6:30–8:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 475–6191.*

"In Celebration of Israel's 60th Anniversary": Temple Beth Emeth. The Ann Arbor Symphony accompanies the Temple's Kol Halev and Shir Chadash choirs in a program of Israeli songs, including some sing-alongs. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $12 ($72 ticket includes reserved seating and afterglow) in advance and at the door. 665–4744.*

Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper: The Ark. Traditional bluegrass by this all-star young ensemble led by fiddle virtuoso Cleveland, an IBMA Fiddler of the Year winner who made his Grand Ole Opry debut as the guest of Alison Krauss in 1993. The lineup also includes Lansing-bred guitarist Audie Blaylock, mandolinist Jesse Brock, bassist Jerry Reed, and banjoist John Mark Batchelor. The band's latest CD, *Let 'Er Go, Boys,* won IBMA Album of the Year honors. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"May Madness": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. See 16 Friday. Tonight: a **tango dance party.** Preceded by tango lessons (price TBA) in the Michigan League Ballroom, 4–5:15 p.m. & 5:30–6:45 p.m. *9 p.m.–midnight, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $15 (students, $10). 973–2338.*

FILMS

Melange. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner." See 4 Sunday. Tonight: ***Caddyshack*** (Harold Ramis, 1980). Comedy about hijinks at a posh country club. Chevy Chase, Rodney Dangerfield, Bill Murray. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "The Life Before Her Eyes"** (Vadim Perelman, 2008). See 17 Saturday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

19 MONDAY

"Spring Fling": Pattengill & Bryant Elementary Schools. This joint ice cream social features an obstacle course, spacewalk, cakewalk, music, sports games, carnival games and prizes. Ice cream novelties, pizza, and popcorn available. Indoors, if rain. *6–8 p.m., Pattengill, 2100 Crestland Dr. off Packard south of Stadium. Free admission; nominal charge for food & games. 971–5902.*

★**Embroiderers Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. *7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 913–8886.*

★**Jane Cleland: Aunt Agatha's.** This New York mystery writer, a former antiques and rare books dealer in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, discusses her cleverly crafted cozy ***Antiques to Die For,*** the 3rd in her series about a New Hampshire antiques dealer, who this time tries to solve the murder of her fun-loving friend. *7 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**Cokie Roberts: Ann Arbor District Library.** This Emmy-winning ABC and NPR political journalist discusses her new book ***Ladies of Liberty: Women Who Shaped Our Nation,*** a sequel to her best-selling *Founding Mothers* that covers the period from 1796 to 1828. Signing. *7–8:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 327–4560.*

"May Madness": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. See 16 Friday. Tonight: a **tango dance party.** Preceded by tango lessons (price TBA), 8–9:15 p.m. & 5:30–6:45 p.m. *9:30 p.m.–midnight, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $15 (students, $10). 973–2338.*

FILMS

MTF. "The Life Before Her Eyes" (Vadim Perelman, 2008). See 17 Saturday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

20 TUESDAY

★**Saline Newcomers Book Club: Waters Place Borders.** Discussion of ***Song Yet Sung***, James McBride's novel set in antebellum Maryland about a runaway slave and her prophetic visions—from Martin Luther King to hip-hop—that motivate her escape. *7 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

"Do Ewe Like Cheese?": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff member Jess Piskor discusses and offers taste samples of a variety of sheep milk cheeses from Roquefort and feta to pecorino Romano and manchego. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $20 in advance, $25 at the door. 663–3354.*

"A Down South Dinner with Martha Foose": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young is joined by this gifted chef and storyteller from Tchula, Mississippi, to host a meal featuring dishes from ***Screen Doors and Sweet Tea,*** Foose's new collection of recipes and tales celebrating the color, characters, and cookery of the Delta region. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $45. Beverages available a la carte. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

★**Writers Reading at Sweetwaters.** Reading by local poet **Angel Nafis,** a WCC student and 2-time member of the Ann Arbor Youth Poetry Slam Team who is currently the Neutral Zone writer-in-residence. Followed by open-mike readings for poets and other creative writers. *7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 369–2798.*

★**Chuck Palahniuk: Liberty Borders.** This novelist from Portland, Oregon, who has been described as "America's most inventive nihilist," discusses ***Snuff,*** his audacious and hilarious story about a porn star who plans to have sex with 600 men in one day on camera. The narrative follows Mr. 72, Mr. 137, and Mr. 600 as they await their turns. Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Huron Valley Sierra Club.** A slide-illustrated talk by Unadilla Boatworks owner Ron Sell on **"Exploring the Natural Rivers Section of the Huron River by Canoe."** *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Rd. Free.*

Avett Brothers: The Ark. Postpunk southern roots music by this heralded young string trio from North Carolina whose music has been described as a cross between the Everly Brothers and the Violent Femmes. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* praises

the band for exploiting "the tensions between the rustic Old South and the cosmopolitan New South, between rootsy bluegrass and rowdy punk rock, between reverence and irreverence." Its 2007 CD *Emotionalism,* which debuted at #1 on the *Billboard* Heatseekers chart, is a collection of adventurously inventive originals that *Paste* magazine reviewer Steve LaBate calls "sporadically reminiscent of everything from *Help!*-era Beatles to Chopin nocturnes." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Life Before Her Eyes" (Vadim Perelman, 2008). See 17 Saturday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

21 WEDNESDAY

★**Martha Hall Foose: Waters Place Borders.** This Viking Cooking School executive chef signs ***Screen Doors and Sweet Tea: Recipes and Tales from a Southern Cook***, a collection of southern recipes with a contemporary flair accented by humorous and touching stories. *Noon, Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★**Book Club: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 50 & older invited to join Lucia Skoman to discuss a book TBA. *12:15 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Ride of Silence": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society/Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month."** All bicyclists invited to join a silent procession to honor people who have been killed or injured on public roadways. *6:45 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Summit. Free. 904–6431.*

★**Book Club: Ann Arbor Jaycees.** All invited to discuss Elizabeth Gilbert's best-selling self-searching travelogue ***Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India, and Indonesia.*** *7 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 417–3267.*

★**"Sailing Grace": Ann Arbor District Library.** Former Grand Rapids state legislator **John Otterbacher,** a longtime contributor to sailing magazines, discusses his gripping memoir about his struggle with heart disease, which begins with him flat on his back in a local health club, gasping for air, and ends 31 months and 4,000 miles later when he and his family maneuver their sailboat *Grace* into Schull Harbor, Ireland. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Peter Leonard: Nicola's Books.** This young fiction writer is interviewed by his father, popular crime novelist **Elmore Leonard,** about his debut novel ***Quiver***, a thriller about a woman dealing with her husband's accidental death when her old beau, an ex-con, shows up and sets in motion a series of events that culminates in a life-and-death confrontation with a gang of killers. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

★**"Gardening at the Dragon's Gate: At Work in the Wild and Cultivated World": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** *Tricycle: The Buddhist Review* "On Gardening" columnist **Wendy Johnson,** one of the founders of the Gulch Farm Zen Center (Marin County) organic farm and garden program, reads from her meditative memoir about a lifetime of gardening. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Michigan Folklore": Pittsfield Union Grange.** Talk by MSU Museum folk arts curator Yvonne Lockwood. Preceded at 6:30 by a potluck supper. *7:15 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). Free. 769–1052.*

★**"Antarctica and South Georgia: Penguins and Pintados": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** WAS member Richard Miller reports on his photo safari to Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 677–3275.*

★**"Poetry Night": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** *May 7 & 21.* Tonight: all invited to read poems and flash fiction by their favorite writers. "Flash fiction" is a term for very short stories, usually 250–1,000 words. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

Open Stage Showcase: The Ark. Performance by 2 favorites with audiences of the Ark's Open Stage nights, **Jim Smith,** a veteran local country-folk singer-songwriter who writes reflective, often historical songs about ordinary people's lives, and **Charlene Kaye,** an energetic local singer-songwriter whose songs range between and sometimes mix together a wide array of styles, from classical, swing, and soul to pop and rock. She accompanies herself on both piano and guitar. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "The Life Before Her Eyes" (Vadim Perelman, 2008). See 7 Saturday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

22 THURSDAY

★**"Trunk-a-Palooza": Kerrytown Market.** Monthly garage sale where folks sell everything from china to cowboy hats out of their car trunks. Live music and food. *4–7 p.m., Farmers' Market, between Fourth Ave. and Detroit St. Free admission. Vendors: preregister for $20 at glbtbooks.com/trunkapalooza.htm. 277–2908.*

★**"How to Plant Your Own Perennials": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Lodi Farms staff, who also provide free plants, pots, and potting soil for participants to take home. *6:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Help! I've Got to Lose Some Weight!": Plum Market.** Talk by local physician Malcolm Sickels and local nurse practitioner Gaia Kile. *7 p.m., Plum Market lounge, Maple Village. Free. 827–5000.*

★**"Herbs for Pets": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Diane Feldt. Also, recipes for healthy dog treats. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Reservations requested. 994–4589.*

"Vosges Berger Rendez-Vous": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff discuss and offer taste samples of a variety of gourmet chocolates from Vosges Chocolate, a Chicago chocolatier that makes Zingerman's best-selling chocolates. *7–8 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $15 in advance, $20 (if available) at the door. Space limited; reservations recommended. 663–3354.*

★**"Finding Local Food and Bringing It Home for Dinner: Supporting Our Farms": Ann Arbor District Library.** Panel discussion with Tantre Farm (Chelsea) owners Richard Andres and Deb Lentz, Old Pine Farm (Grass Lake) owner Kristen Hirth, Community Farm Kitchen owner Mary Wessel Walker, and Victoria Bennett, a WCC business and computer technologies academic associate who has had to find new ways to shop for food because of her son's severe allergies. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"An Evening with Kevin Sampsell & Friends": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Future Tense Books publisher Sampsell reads from ***Creamy Bullets,*** his new collection of stories that swing from hard realism to bizarre and hilarious realism. Also, readings by **Matt Bell** and **Barry Graham,** 2 of Sampsell's fellow contributors to *Hobart*, a local literary journal whose editor, Aaron Burch, hosts tonight's program. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**James Frey: Liberty Borders.** This bestselling author of *A Million Little Pieces* reads from ***Bright Shiny Morning,*** his novel chronicling the lives of a handful of lost souls in Los Angeles—from a supremely narcissistic action-movie star to an aging Venice Beach alcoholic—to create a portrait of contemporary L.A. culture. Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band: The Ark. Sultry, high-energy calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based percussion ensemble founded shortly after WW II by Hugh Borde and currently composed of Borde and several members of his family. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 14 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "The Life Before Her Eyes" (Vadim Perelman, 2008). See 7 Saturday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

23 FRIDAY

4th Friday Advanced Contra Dance. Dave Sebolt calls contras for experienced dancers to live music by the Golden Griffon Stringtet. Wear cool, casual

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Healthy Lifestyle OPEN HOUSE
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For over 100 years, Chelsea Retirement Community has focused on helping its residents lead healthy, independent and active lives. Join us for an Open House Celebration featuring experts on a wide range of healthy aging topics.

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23 FRIDAY *continued*

clothes and comfy, flat-soled shoes. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $8. 747–8860.*

Dave Mason: The Ark. A founding member of the pioneering progressive rock band Traffic, this veteran English singer-songwriter and guitarist is best known as the author of the Joe Cocker hit "Feeling Alright" and for his own hit recording of Jim Krueger's "We Just Disagree." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $30 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Baltimore Waltz": Blackbird Theater. *May 23–25, 30, 31, and June 6 & 7.* Wa-Louisa Hubbard directs local actors in Paula Vogel's Obie Award–winning tragicomedy, an AIDS allegory about an uptight schoolteacher who thinks she's contracted a fatal disease from an elementary-school toilet seat. Accompanied by her equally repressed librarian brother, she crisscrosses Europe in search of a cure. Along the way, she meets a variety of characters who teach her—with what *American Theatre* magazine called "the inexorable logic of a dream and the pressing urgency of a nightmare"—to let loose and enjoy life. Cast: Alysia Kolascz, Adam Rzepka, and Michael Williams. *8 p.m., Blackbird Theater, 1600 Pauline (at Kay Pkwy. east of Stadium). Tickets $20 (seniors 60 & over, $15; students, $10) in advance and at the door. 332–3848.*

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Geoff Tate: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 23 & 24.* Ann Arbor debut of this rising young midwestern stand-up comic known for his lazy vocal delivery and laid-back stage presence. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 reserved seating in advance, $10 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Borders Waters Place. "Martian Child" (Menno Meyjes, 2007). Family-friendly drama about a sci-fi writer who considers adopting a boy claiming to be from Mars. John Cusack. FREE. 997–8884. Borders (3140 Lohr Rd.), 7 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Then She Found Me"** (Helen Hunt, 2008). *May 23–29.* Romantic comedy about a schoolteacher going through a midlife crisis as her adoptive mother dies, her husband leaves her, and her birth mother, an eccentric talk show host, shows up unexpectedly. Helen Hunt, Colin Firth, Bette Midler, Matthew Broderick. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

24 SATURDAY

★Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. *9 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647–8528.*

★30th Annual Great Lakes Special Stockdog Trials: Southeast Michigan Australian Shepherd Association. *May 24–26.* Numerous Australian shepherd dogs and herding breeds from across Michigan and out of state compete to herd ducks, sheep, and beef cattle—it's amazing to see the control these nimble dogs have over animals many times their size. *9 a.m.–afternoon, Imagine Farm, 10202 Hogan, Manchester (take M-52 south to east on Hogan Rd.). Free. (517) 675–5275.*

"Charity Hat Tournament": Ann Arbor Ultimate. All invited to compete in this sport played with a flying disc. Names are pulled from a hat in order to form teams. Beginners welcome. Proceeds benefit a charity TBA. The club also sponsors weekly pickup games (see 3 Saturday listing). *10 a.m., Lillie Park, Platt at Ellsworth (entrance on Platt, ½ mile south of Ellsworth). $10 per player in advance at a2ultimate.org and $15 at the tournament. info@a2ultimate.org.*

"Imagination Celebration": Imagination Theater Etc. (Performance Network Children's Theater Network). The Troy-based duo of **JanetMarie & m'Archibald** present a program of traditional and original sing-alongs and interactive stories celebrating health and fitness, self-esteem, cooperation, and just plain fun. *11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youth 16 & under, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

★Nature's Expressions. *May 24 & 25.* Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. Includes a complete fossil skeleton of a 9-foot, 100,000-year-old cave bear. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free. 994–3048.*

★"Ypsi Pops": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra (Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission). Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in a program of patriotic music to celebrate Memorial Day. *2 p.m., Riverside Park Pavilion, E. Cross at N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Free. 507–1451.*

★"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from TV series. Program TBA. *U-M campus admission policy:* No one under 18 admitted without an adult. *5 p.m.–midnight, MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. umich.edu/~animania.*

Floor Hockey Night: Northside Elementary. All invited to an evening of floor hockey games. Also, screening of a family-friendly movie TBA. Snacks available. Proceeds benefit the school's 5th-grade camp. *6–8 p.m., Northside Elementary School, 905 Barton Dr. $5 (family, $25). 994–1958.*

"PhoenixPhest 2008": Phoenix Ensemble. *May 24 & 25 (different programs).* A faculty chamber concert, featuring members of the classy local Phoenix Ensemble, culminates a 3-day workshop for youth musicians. The program includes movements from Beethoven's String Quartet Op. 132, Brahms's Sextet in B-flat Major, and Mendelssohn's Octet. Workshop students perform tomorrow at 3 p.m. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. (off Earhart). Tickets $10 in advance and at the door. 358–2100.*

4th Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Carol Jacobs calls contras to music by Phil Chen and friends. No partner needed. All dances taught. Beginner lessons at 7:40 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (AACTMAD members, $8; students, $5). 730–6919.*

"The Baltimore Waltz": Blackbird Theater. See 23 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Geoff Tate: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 23 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Marcin Wasilewski Trio: The Firefly Club. *See review, p. 87.* Ann Arbor debut of this heralded Polish jazz trio led by composer-pianist Wasilewski that is most widely known through its years as trumpeter Tomasz Stanko's touring band. *9 & 11 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. Tickets $12 in advance and at the door. 665–9090.*

FILMS

MTF. "Then She Found Me" (Helen Hunt, 2008). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

25 SUNDAY

★"Hudson Mills Metropark": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS member Karen Markey leads a hike through the park to look for a variety of birds usually found there, including the yellow-throated vireo, scarlet tanager, wood thrush, blue-winged warbler, and more. Bring a beverage; insect repellent recommended. *7:30 a.m., meet at the flagpole in front of the Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 994–3569.*

"Bagels & Boats": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited for bagels, fruit, and juice, followed by a guided paddle around Gallup Pond. *9–11 a.m., Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $9 (includes paddleboat rental) & $18 (includes canoe or kayak rental). 662–9319.*

★"Memorial Day Sunday Democratic Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. The assembled riders determine the ride's pace and destination. All invited. *9 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431.*

★Dan Rice Memorial Regatta: U-M Sailing Club. All invited to watch club members race their zippy JY15 dinghies around Base Line Lake in a regatta dedicated to the club's late longtime sailing instructor

Dan Rice. *10 a.m., Base Line Lake, Strawberry Lake Rd. (between Mast Rd. and Huron River Dr. north from Territorial Rd.), Dexter. Free. 426–4299.*

Southern Michigan Orienteering Club. See 17 Saturday. *Noon–2 p.m., Crooked Lake picnic area, Waterloo Recreation Area (follow Orienteering signs on Green Rd., 2 miles north off Clear Lake Rd. from I-94 exit 153), Grass Lake. $10 (members, $5) plus vehicle entry fee. 517–242–5465.*

★**Bird Hills Neighborhood Coalition Series: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division.** All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff restore and maintain the natural areas in Bird Hills Park. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. *1–4 p.m., meet at the Bird Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Park. Free. 996–3266.*

★**24th Annual Memorial Day Observance: Arborcrest Memorial Park.** This annual tribute features speeches by local public office holders, veterans, and military officers. Attendees include local veteran associations, the junior color guard, a drill team, and several Girl and Boy Scout troops. Live entertainment TBA. Also, a bugle salute. Rain or shine. Refreshments. *2 p.m., Arborcrest Memorial Park, 2521 Glazier Way (behind the VA hospital, ¼ mile west of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 761–4572.*

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–5763.*

"The Baltimore Waltz": Blackbird Theater. See 23 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Goldilocks and Red Riding Hood vs. the Monsters": Dreamland Theater. See 4 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

FILMS

Melange. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner." See 4 Sunday. Tonight: ***The Goonies*** (Richard Donner, 1985). Old-fashioned adventure yarn about a group of kids searching for hidden treasure. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "Then She Found Me"** (Helen Hunt, 2008). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

26 MONDAY (Memorial Day)

★**"Memorial Day Democratic Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** The assembled riders determine the ride's pace and destination. All invited. *9 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431.*

Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast: Yankee Air Force Museum. Flapjacks, breakfast treats, and a chance to examine the static aircraft on display. *9 a.m.–around noon, Yankee Air Force Museum, 2041 A St., Willow Run Airport (exit 185 off I-94), Ypsilanti. $5. 483–4030.*

★**Ypsilanti Memorial Day Processional: Ypsilanti VFW.** Large procession with school bands, neighborhood and group floats, Girl Scouts, and others. Starts at Ferris and Huron and heads to Depot Town. After a memorial wreath-tossing ceremony on the Cross Street bridge, the parade continues on to Highland Cemetery for a ceremony, rifle salute, and taps at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. *9–11 a.m., Cross Street and Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free. 483–4444.*

★**Memorial Day Parade: Glacier Hills Home Owners' Association.** Ann Arbor's only Memorial Day parade—and the best one in the area for young kids and their families—is a 6-block jaunt that features a color guard and drum corps of Huron High students, a police car, fire truck, and perhaps some classic cars and a bagpiper or two. Kids invited to decorate their bikes and join in at the end of the parade. Parents with strollers also can join in. Followed by a brief memorial service in Glacier Highlands Park. Free doughnuts. *10 a.m., Frederick to Middleton to Bardstown to Windemere to Barrister. Free. 662–3261.*

★**"Remembering Our Heroes": Ypsilanti Community Band.** James Wagner and Pat Padilla conduct this 70-member adult band in a program of mainly patriotic and memorial music that includes "America the Beautiful," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," Leroy Anderson's "Fiddle Faddle," and more. *11 a.m., Yankee Air Force Museum, 2041 A St., Willow Run Airport (exit 185 off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free. 483–4030.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "It Happens Every Spring" (Lloyd Bacon, 1949). Classic B&W baseball comedy about a science professor who creates a baseball repelled by wood. Ray Milland, Jean Peters,

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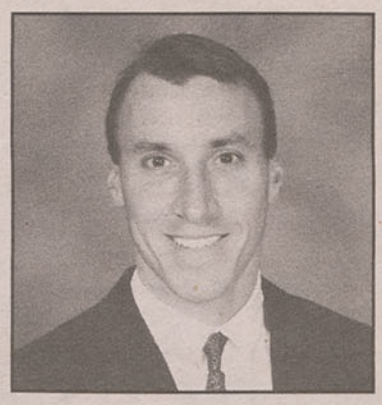

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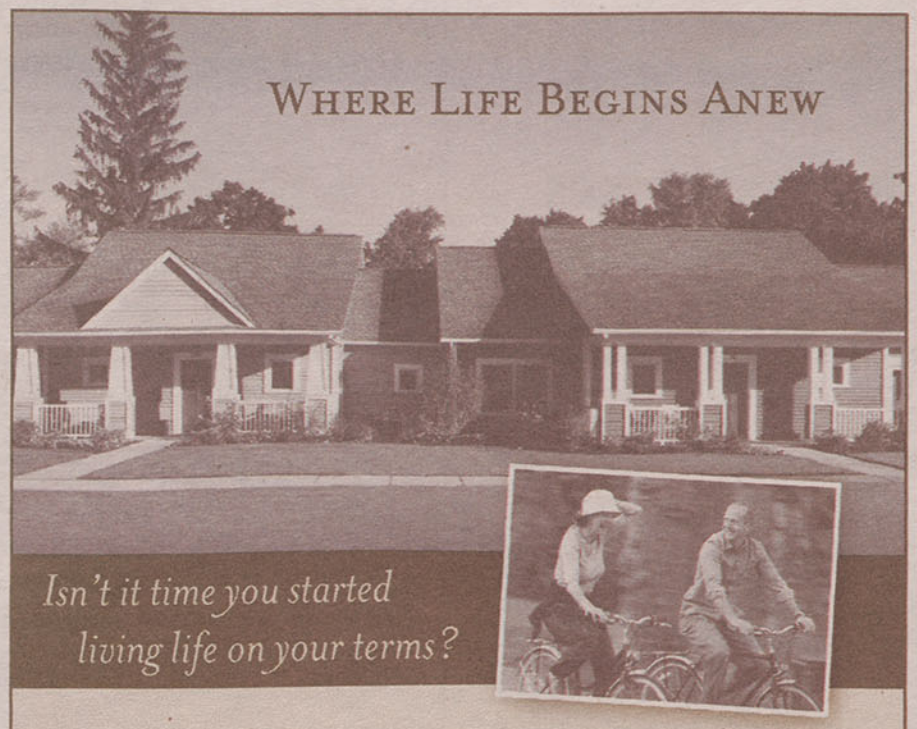

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MorrisCo Art Theatre presents Ibsen's *Ghosts* at Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti May 29–31.

26 MONDAY *continued*

Paul Douglas. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Field of Dreams"** (Phil Alden Robinson, 1989). Heartwarming baseball fantasy about an Iowa corn farmer who hears a voice telling him to build a baseball diamond in his fields. When he does, ghosts of the 1919 Chicago White Sox show up to play. Kevin Costner, Ray Liotta, James Earl Jones. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **"Then She Found Me"** (Helen Hunt, 2008). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

27 TUESDAY

★**"Healing Health Care in Michigan: Working Toward a Health System That Works": Ann Arbor District Library.** Panel discussion with U-M School of Public Health health management and policy professor Richard Lichtenstein, Packard Community Clinic executive director Kim Kratz, Washtenaw Health Plan executive director Ellen Rabinowitz, and Washtenaw Health Plan children's health insurance advocate Kelly Stupple. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Richard Tillinghast: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** A U-M English professor emeritus who now lives in rural Ireland, this award-winning poet known for his distinctively musical free-verse poems reads from ***The New Life,*** his new collection of poems about romantic love, the deaths of old friends, the ironies of history, and the losses and epiphanies of a life of exploration and discovery. "There's no going back to innocence for sullied creatures like ourselves, but achingly captured in these poems is that perdurable wish. And in freshwater lines of poetry—the purest, most limpid he has ever written—Richard Tillinghast finds something 'the polluted tides of history' have not yet overwhelmed," says poet and U-M English professor Linda Gregerson. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

Dinner Dance: Tuesday Night Dancers. Ballroom dancing to live music by the Mike Wolverton Band. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Preceded at 7 p.m. by dinner. No jeans. *8–10:45 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. $17 (includes dinner) in advance only. (517) 787–6367, (517) 592–5771.*

★**Claude Bourbon and The Everybodyfields: The Ark "Take a Chance Tuesdays."** Double bill. Bourbon is a UK-based Swiss acoustic guitarist whose music is a haunting fusion of blues, jazz, folk, classical, Spanish, and Eastern European influences. The Everybodyfields are a Johnson City, Tennessee, band led by singer-songwriters and guitarists Sam Quinn and Jill Andrews that plays a brand of alt-country that marries melancholic lyrics with gorgeous melodies. Part of a monthly series of free concerts showcasing lesser-known artists on the roster of the prestigious local management agency Fleming Artists. All encouraged to bring nonperishable food or money to donate to Food Gatherers. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 761–1451.*

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Then She Found Me" (Helen Hunt, 2008). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **Neutral Zone. "Tarnation"** (Jonathan Caouette, 2003). Documentary about the director's difficulty growing up gay with a schizophrenic mother. FREE. 214–9995. Neutral Zone (310 E. Washington St.), 7 p.m.

28 WEDNESDAY

"Breakfast and Kabbalah": Chabad House. All invited to join a chat over breakfast with Chabad House rabbi Aharon Goldstein about kabbalah and Jewish mysticism. *10:30 a.m., Chabad House, 715 Hill. $5 donation. 995–3276.*

Ice Cream Social: Burns Park Elementary School. A dunk tank, moon bounce, lollipop tree, fish pond, face painting, cakewalk, and other carnival games. Also, pizza, popcorn, hot dogs, and a preschool play area. *5–7 p.m., Burns Park Elementary, 1414 Wells St. Free admission; nominal charge for games & food. 994–1919.*

★**Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. *7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Stadium just south of Jackson). Free. 332–1000.*

★**Yellow Room Gang: Ann Arbor District Library.** In-the-round performances by members of this group of award-winning veteran Michigan songwriters who get together regularly to share their new work. Tonight's performers are Jim Bizer, Annie Capps, Jan Krist, Matt Watroba, and David Tamulevich. The Yellow Room Gang's eponymous compilation CD features brand-new and older songs by each artist. *7 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Beginning Steps of Bonsai Creation": Ann Arbor Bonsai Society.** Lecture-demo by Oregon bonsai artist Mike Hagedorn. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 747–6493.*

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Then She Found Me" (Helen Hunt, 2008). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

29 THURSDAY

★**Book Lovers' Club: Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.** All invited to join a discussion of 2 books about journeys. ***The Road*** is Cormac McCarthy's haunting, bleak, Pulitzer Prize–winning postapocalyptic 2006 novel about a man journeying across a blasted landscape with his

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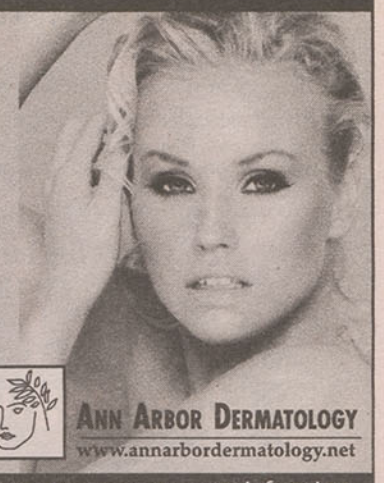

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29 THURSDAY *continued*

son, and ***A Sense of the World: How a Blind Man Became History's Greatest Traveler*** is Jason Roberts's vibrant biography of 19th-century naval officer James Holman. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Washtenaw County Library conference room B, County Service Center, 4135 Washtenaw at Hogback. Free. 971–6059.*

★**"Understanding Alzheimer's": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talks by Alzheimer's Association social worker Jennifer Wolfe Howard and Evangelical Homes of Michigan new programs and services director Susan Pettis. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Dinner and a Movie": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** Screening of ***The Story of Stuff,*** Annie Leonard's eye-opening animated 2007 documentary about the hidden story behind the creation, sale, and disposal of all the stuff in our lives. Includes dinner. Followed by a group discussion. *6:30 p.m., Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Free. 663–1870.*

★**"Improving Energy Naturally": Plum Market.** Talk by local naturopath Rami El-Husseiny. *7 p.m., Plum Market lounge, Maple Village. Free. 827–5000.*

★**"Fats & Your Baby's Health": Whole Foods Market.** Local chiropractor Shannon Roznay discusses the various fats necessary for proper brain, nervous system, and hormone development. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975–4500.*

"Cooking with Exquisite Olive Oil": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Cooking demo by Zingerman's staff member Solomon James. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $20 in advance, $25 at the door. 663–3354.*

★**Mike Farrell: Barnes & Noble.** This actor-turned-activist, best known for his role as B. J. Honeycutt on M*A*S*H, reads from and discusses his memoir *Just Call Me Mike: A Journey from Actor to Activist.* Signing. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

Twilight Hotel: The Ark. The Winnipeg, Manitoba, roots-cabaret duo of Brandy Zdan and Dave Quanbury specializes in dark, unsettling alt-country songs that the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* has described as "Tom Waits meets Leonard Cohen." "*Highway Prayer* . . . artfully craft[s] a pan-American world placed somewhere between Andrew Bird's jazz-gypsy-folk and Johnny and June's soulful-earthy duets. Halfway between the cafe and the roadhouse, the stories on *Highway Prayer* unfold like a dark map of the heart," says twangnation.com in its review of the band's brand-new CD. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Ghosts": MorrisCo Art Theatre. *May 29–31.* Susan Morris directs local actors in Ibsen's 1882 drama about a widow, constrained by her high-minded moral rigidity, who must deal with her late philandering husband's estate and their syphilitic son. Though written over 100 years ago, Ibsen's critique resonates with contemporary debates about the value of traditional morality. Cast: Rebecca Stucki, Robert Green, Jeff Stringer, Larry Rusinsky, Lisa White. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (students & seniors, $15) in advance and at the door. 996–2549.*

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 14 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Then She Found Me" (Helen Hunt, 2008). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

30 FRIDAY

Guided Tours: Waterloo Area Farm Museum. *Every Friday–Sunday May 30–August 31.* Museum docents in period dress give tours of the artifact-filled farmhouse, which contains everything from feather trees to a wooden wheelchair in the attic. *1 p.m.–5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. 5 miles north from I-94 exit 153), Waterloo Recreation Area. $3 (seniors, $2.50; kids 5–17, $1). (517) 596–2254.*

Ice Cream Social: Carpenter Elementary School. Games include the fish pond, ring toss, basketball shoot, and the popular "pitch burst," in which water balloons burst over the principal's head. Also, a cake decorating contest, face painting, a moonwalk, a cakewalk, snow cones, tacos, hot dogs, bake sale, and ice cream. *5:30–8 p.m., Carpenter, 4250 Central Blvd. Free admission; nominal charge for food & games. 971–5903.*

Ice Cream Social: Mitchell Elementary School. A bowling game, ring toss, cakewalk, dunk tank, Lucky Duck, blow-up bouncy, and more. Pizza, popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy. Free ice cream. *6–8 p.m., Mitchell, 3550 Pittsview. Free admission; nominal charge for food and games. 971–5904.*

★**Gallup Park Bird Walk: Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** City ornithologist Dea Armstrong leads an evening walk to look for birds in Gallup Park and the Furstenberg Nature Area. Bring binoculars if you have them. *6–8 p.m., meet at the paddleboat dock near the Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 996–3266.*

Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA. Kids ages 2–10 can enjoy dinner, games and sports, and (age 5 & older only) a dip in the pool. *6:15–10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. $30 (members, $25). Preregistration required. 661–8012.*

★**"Help! I've Got to Lose Some Weight!": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local physician Malcolm Sickels and local nurse practitioner Gaia Kile. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975–4500.*

★**Ann Hood: Waters Place Borders.** This Rhode Island novelist discusses ***Comfort: A Journey Through Grief,*** her memoir about the death of her 5-year-old daughter and how knitting helped her overcome her grief. Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

"110 in the Shade": EMU Theatre Department. *May 30 & 31 and June 1 & 5–7.* EMU drama professor Ken Stevens directs EMU drama students in N. Richard Nash, Tom Jones, and Harvey Schmidt's 1963 musical adaptation of Nash's *The Rainmaker,* a drama, set in Depression-era rural Texas, about a spinster who takes care of a household for her father and 2 brothers but longs for a life and love of her own. She secretly pines for the town sheriff until a charismatic rainmaker comes to town, and she finds herself torn between a life with her head in the clouds and one with her feet on the ground. For audiences age 12 & up. *7 p.m., Sponberg Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students, $12) in advance and at the door. 487–1221.*

★**"Mystery Murder Night": Salvation Army.** All high school students invited to play this whodunit game. Refreshments. *7:30–10 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

Ruth Cunningham: Kerrytown Concert House. *May 30 & 31 (different programs).* Performance by this classically trained musician and sound healer, a former member of the acclaimed women's vocal quartet Anonymous 4 who sings in what the *New York Times* calls "a lovely, pure, expressive" soprano, accompanying herself on piano, medieval harp, flute, recorder, and *shruti* box (an Indian drone instrument). Tonight's program, **"Light and Shadow,"** features Gregorian and Sanskrit chants and improvisational settings of devotional music. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5) in advance and (if available) at the door. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Bichini Bia Congo Dance Theater: The Ark. This popular Ann Arbor–based dance company is led by U-M dance lecturer Biza Sompa, a former choreographer for the Congolese National Dance Company and the Paris-based Ballet Theater Lemba. The ensemble includes 8 dancers and 2 drummers, and its repertoire features dances, chants, and songs associated with ritual ceremonies, work, and everyday life in Congolese villages. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Mind Tapped": Dreamland Theater. Local magician and mentalist George Tait performs his entertaining, mind-bending show that blends psychology, mind reading, artful suggestion, trickiness, and humor. *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $10. 657–2337.*

"Ghosts": MorrisCo Art Theatre. See 29 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Baltimore Waltz": Blackbird Theater. See 23 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

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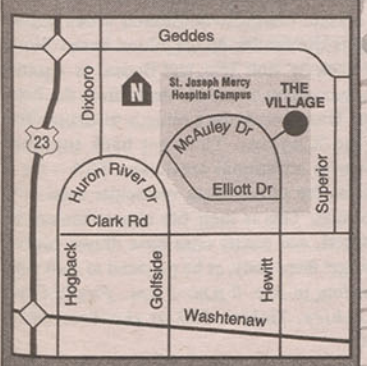

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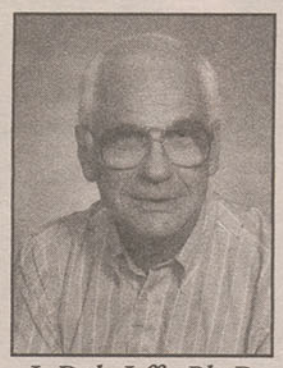

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30 FRIDAY *continued*

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Chrissy Burns: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 30 & 31.* Popular local comic known for her sassy, brassy style and her hapless tales of dieting, dating, and life on the road. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 reserved seating in advance, $10 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. "The Girl in the Cafe" (David Yates, 2005). A shy middle-aged civil servant working for the British delegation to the 2005 G8 Summit meets an enigmatic young woman at a cafe and invites her to the summit on a whim. Bill Nighy, Kelly Macdonald. Popcorn. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.), 7 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Son of Rambow"** (Garth Jennings, 2008). *May 30 & 31.* Coming-of-age comedy set in England in the 1980s about a sheltered boy, his friendship with a troublemaker, and their attempts to make a film inspired by *Rambo*. Some French, subtitles. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

31 SATURDAY

★**"Oak Openings Stewardship Day": Wild Ones.** All invited to help plant native species and weed out invasive plants from this savanna in the Arb. Preceded by a talk on the history of Oak Openings by a naturalist TBA. Bring a cushion or stool to sit on, gloves, and tools if you have them. Refreshments. *8 a.m.–noon, U-M Nichols Arboretum, meet at the Reader Center. Free. 662–9997.*

Yard Sale: St. Thomas Lutheran Church. All invited to buy, sell, and trade stuff at this outdoor sale. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., St. Thomas Lutheran, 10001 W. Ellsworth Rd (west of Parker). Free admission. To reserve a table, call 355–1649. 995–7384.*

★**Conformation Show: Great Lakes American Pit Bull Terrier Club.** Pit bulls show their conformity to breed standards. Sale of clothing and dog-related items. Raffles, concessions. *9 a.m.–6 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Free (parking fee $5, or both days for $8). 728–6585.*

"Chi-Do": Peaceful Dragon School. Adults invited to practice Chi-Do, a potpourri of qigong, acupressure, dynamic movements, and meditation designed for relaxation. *1–4 p.m., Peaceful Dragon School, 1945 Pauline, suite B. $50. Preregistration required. 741–0695.*

★**Robbie Timmons: Nicola's Books.** This *Detroit News* anchor reads from ***Twoey and the Goat,*** her children's chapter book based on the true story of the racehorse who wouldn't race without his best friend, a goat named Kidd. Q&A and signing. *4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale. U-M music school professor emeritus Willis Patterson directs an ecumenical choir of local church members in a program of Duke Ellington's *Choral Caravan,* Joseph Joubert's *Spiritual Suite,* and a selection of spirituals. *7 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence Blvd. Donation. 663–3800.*

★**Cultural Show: Children's Russian Club.** Local Russian children present (in Russian) their original dramatizations of Mikhail Bulgakov's *Monsieur Jourdain*, based on Moliere's *The Bourgeois Gentleman*, and Georgi Pelonsky's *Red Headed, Honest, in Love*, a TV film based on *Tutta Karlsson*, Jan Eckholm's Swedish tale beloved by Russian children. English synopses provided. *5 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts and Sciences Bldg. Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 741–1953.*

Dr. Grangelove's 5th Saturday Contra and English Dance: 5th Saturday Productions. Cleveland caller Becky Hill calls English dances (7 p.m.) and contras and more (8:30 p.m.) to music by Debbie Jackson, Dave Orlin, and Brad Battey. Food available. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *7 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94), Saline. $12. 484–9964.*

★**"Ann Arbor Area Ghosts": Arborland Borders.** Local writer **Mimi Uptergrove** discusses her collection of area residents' accounts of their eerie encounters. *7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

Unveiled Belly Dance Company: Greenhills School. Performance by this local Middle Eastern dance troupe. *7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. $15. 769–4010.*

"110 in the Shade": EMU Theatre Department. See 30 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Gypsy Rhythms Dance Show": Kenville Studios. Collette Kenville directs student, faculty, and professional dancers in various dances influenced by gypsy culture, from European folk dance to flamenco and belly dancing, with a splash of ballet and Broadway. *7:30 p.m., Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin. $10 (students, $8) in advance and at the door. 302–3502.*

"American Treasures": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Benjamin Cohen directs this 24-member local vocal ensemble in its 3rd annual concert of American choral music. The program is highlighted by Dominick Argento's *Peter Quince at the Clavier,* a setting of Wallace Stevens's poem, and Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*, a setting of 7 Robert Frost poems, including "The Road Not Taken" and "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." Accompanist is pianist Edward Wyman. *8 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal, 2309 Packard. $15 (students & seniors, $10; children 12 & under, free). 741–7451.*

"The Joint Is Jumpin'!": The Choral Connection. Carolyn Tjon Burnstein directs this 20-member song-and-dance troupe in a musical revue of vintage American pop, including Broadway favorites, humorous parodies, and songs by Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Richard Rodgers, George Gershwin, and others. Followed by dancing to big-band swing music by the popular and versatile **Saline Big Band**. Refreshments available. *8 p.m.–midnight, Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $20 in advance & $22 at the door. 944–7729.*

"Ghosts": MorrisCo Art Theatre. See 29 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Baltimore Waltz": Blackbird Theater. See 23 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Growing Pretty": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Exits and Entrances": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

The Chenille Sisters with the Royal Garden Trio: The Ark. The nationally renowned local trio of singer-songwriters Cheryl Dawdy, Connie Huber, and Grace Morand, known for its unbeatable combination of breathtakingly precise and resonant vocal harmonies, joins forces with this local vintage jazz trio led by guitarist Brian Delaney for a program of 30s and 40s jazz and pop standards. The two trios also perform short sets by themselves showcasing their regular repertoires. The Chenille Sisters play an eclectic mix of originals and jazz, swing, blues, and folk standards, and the Royal Garden Trio, which also includes cellist Michael Karoub and clarinetist and tenor guitarist Tom Bogardus, specializes in early jazz standards and Hot Club-style gypsy jazz. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Ruth Cunningham: Kerrytown Concert House. See 30 Friday. Tonight: Cunningham is joined by local soprano and sound healer **Norma Gentile** for a **"Meditation Concert"** featuring mantras, sacred songs, and improvised healing chants. 8 p.m.

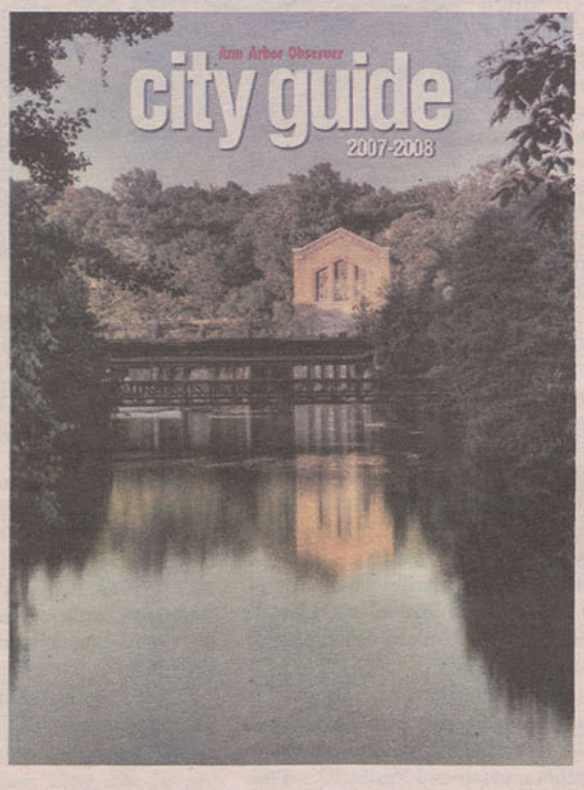
Chrissy Burns: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 30 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Mr. B, Steve Nardella, and George Bedard Reunion Concert: Firefly Club. It's been 25 years since these 3 local roots-music luminaries played together as members of the Steve Nardella Band. Since then, each has gone on to make his own mark, Mark "Mr. B" Braun as an internationally renowned exponent of classic boogie-woogie and blues piano, Nardella as the leader of the blues-based Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio, and Bedard as a prime force in a succession of superb bands, from the Bonnevilles to Tracy Lee & the Leonards to George Bedard & the Kingpins. They get back together tonight—with additional musicians TBA—for a show that no fan of American vernacular music can afford to miss. This is their 6th almost-annual reunion concert, and earlier ones have drawn packed houses, so get there early, or be prepared to cool your heels standing in line. *8 p.m.–1 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets $20 at the door only. 665–9090.*

FILMS

MTF. "Son of Rambow" (Garth Jennings, 2008). See 30 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

Two indispensable guides.



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2008 Deadlines and Publication Schedule

	COMPLIMENTARY DESIGN	SPACE CLOSING	MATERIALS CLOSING	PUBLICATION
2008–2009 CITY GUIDE	Thursday, May 15	Tuesday, June 17	Tuesday, July 22	Monday, Aug. 11
2008–2009 COMMUNITY GUIDE	Thursday, July 31	Thursday, Aug. 14	Thursday, Aug. 21	Tuesday, Sept. 9

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Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who's playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The Ark

316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. All headlined Ark shows are included in the daily Events listings. **May 7: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). 7:30–10 p.m.

The B-Side

310 E. Washington **214–9995**

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–10 p.m. Cover, dancing. **May 9: "Funky Dance Party."** With the local teen dance bands **I-Funk, H.M.S. Epidemic, Adam & Evil,** and **The Tired Tricycles.** Proceeds benefit the annual Community High School Commstock festival. **May 23: The Grey Level.** Detroit alternative rock band. Opening act is **I Am Abomination,** a Taylor band that plays a mix of rock and progressive electronica. **May 24: Guilty Bystanders.** Local teen punk band. Opening acts are **Red Leader,** an alternative rock quartet from Ypsilanti, and **The Echos,** a local rock band. A fundraiser for the proposed Ann Arbor Skatepark.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon. (except May 5); closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **May 1: Mifune.** Madison rock jam band. Opening act is **Chicago Afrobeat Project,** a 9-piece Afrobeat jazz ensemble from Chicago. **May 2:** Ann Arbor Soul Club. Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **May 3: Dante.** Local hip-hop MC. Opening acts TBA. **May 5: "Cinco de Mayo Gender Bender Prom."** Headliner is **Scream Club,** a hip-hop punk band from Olympia, Washington. Opening acts are **Pussy Pirates,** a local all-female avant-jazz punk quintet, and 2 local techno DJs. **May 6: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **May 7: Todd Deatherage.** Local country-rock singer-songwriter originally from Dallas whom the *Village Voice* dubbed a "honky-tonk Elliott Smith." Opening act is **American Mars,** a classy Detroit Americana quartet. **May 8: Northwick.** Local quartet that plays rock, classic rock, and blues-rock. Opening act is **The Setup,** a local pop-rock quartet. **May 9: Ann Arbor Dub Project.** Local reggae-rock band. Opening acts are 3 other Michigan reggae bands, **Maddis, Burnin' Man,** and **Mystic Man. May 10: Scotch Bonnet.** Downriver psychedelic garage-rock band led by singer-songwriter Scotty Karate. Opening acts are the Detroit blues-rock quartet **The Universal Temple of Divine Power, Chapstik** (see Elbow Room), and the Detroit blues and rock band **Hotness. May 13: "Showcase Night."** See above. **May 14: Trembling Earth.** Local psychedelic southern-rock band. Opening acts are **Ultraviolet Hippos,** an Ypsilanti jam band, and **Treetown Underground,** a local acoustic roots-music jam band. **May 15: Love Meets Lust.** Ferndale New Wave electro-rock trio. Opening acts are **Lightning Love!,** a local indie minimalist pop trio, and **Tonight,** an Ypsilanti electro-French pop band. **May 16: Freer.** Detroit R&B-inflected pop-punk quartet band. Opening act is **Friendly Foes,** a Ferndale indie powerpop trio. **May 17: Van Go Go.** Kalamazoo postpunk pop-rock band. Opening acts are the Detroit alternative rock band **Paper Street Saints,** the local acoustic experimental rock duo **Mahoney,** and the Detroit psychedelic surf-rock band **Oscillating Fan Club. May 20: Macpodz.** Immensely popular local jam band that plays an invigorating mix of R&B, soul, rock, and hard jazz it calls "disco bebop." Opening acts are **U-Melt,** a New York City progressive rock jam band, and **Aleph-1,** a local progressive electro-acoustic trip-hop band. **May 21: Fields of Industry.** Grand Rapids quartet that plays ambient folk-rock. Opening act TBA. **May 22: The Wall Cloks.** Detroit-area indie rock quartet. Opening acts are **Michael Blair,** a minimalist pop singer-songwriter from Lincoln Park, and **Sounds of the Czars,** a local Tiki-flavored surf-rock lounge quartet. **May 23: Three Blue Teardrops.** Rockabilly/psychobilly garage trio from Chicago. Opening acts are **The Blue Rubys,** a local almost-all-female country-rock quintet, and **The Mark Set,** a rock 'n' roll band. **May 24: Baatin.** Detroit hip-hop MC. Opening acts TBA. **May 27: "Showcase Night."** See above. **May 28: My Dear Disco.** Local dance septet, formerly known as Toolbox, that plays a blend of techno, funk, and jamming known as nu-jazz. **May 29: "Zuma Hi-Fi."** Local DJ Billy the Kid plays reggae records. **May 30: "Eat My Brain Productions."** With an array of area punk bands and sideshow acts TBA. **May 31: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock.

Cavern Club

210 S. First St. **332–9900**

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space features live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, the complex has 2 street-level clubs, the Millennium Club, which features MTV-style video hits on plasma screens, and Gotham City, which features DJs with house music Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to all 3 clubs) Sat. only, dancing. Age 18 & older admitted. **Every Fri.: DJ Helluva & DJ Nik Beats.** Local DJs spin old-school rock. **May 3 & 10: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. **May 17: DJ Helluva & DJ Nik Beats.** See above. **May 24: Killer Flamingos.** See above. **May 31: DJ Helluva & DJ Nik Beats.** See above.

The Circus

210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This bar located on the top floor of the Cavern Club building features karaoke with live musicians on Thurs. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs. & Fri.: "Live Rock 'n' Roll Karaoke."** Karaoke with prerecorded rhythm tracks and live guitars and keyboards by the Hartland trio **Double Take.**

Club Above

215 N. Main **663–7758**

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music or DJs Thurs.–Sun., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m., and live happy hour bands on Fri., 5:30–8:30 p.m. Also, karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & over only unless otherwise noted. **Every Thurs.: "Blues Jam."** With ensembles of adult students from the Ann Arbor Music Center and other local blues musicians. Hosted by Dave Sharp. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Xcess plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9–10 p.m. **Every Sun.: Mexican Night.** With DJ Miguel or a live Mexican band. **May 2:** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. The band has a 4-song minidisk, *Clean House,* an election-year collection that includes 2 originals, a cover of Stephen Stills's 1967 protest classic "For What It's Worth," and an original setting of Auden's 1939 poem "Refugee Song." **May 3:** Live bands TBA. **May 9** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Steve Newhouse & the Nuke-a-billies.** Veteran local classic country and country-rock band led by singer-guitarist Newhouse. With guitarist Kevin Brown, bassist Chris Goerke, and drummer Eric Nyhuis. **May 10:** Closed. **May 16** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: The Vibratrons.** Debut performance by this all-star band led by veteran local rocker Dan Mulholland, the former leader of the Watusies and several other great local rock 'n' roll bands. Its repertoire includes everything from garage rock and blues to country and folk, and Mulholland says he'll be singing a lot more ballads than usual. With guitarist Brian Delaney, keyboardist Andy Adamson, bassist Randy Tessier, and drummer Rich Dishman. **May 17: "NoResolve Benefit."** With 3 bands TBA. **May 23** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Orange Door Hinge.** Local big band led by saxophonist and II-V-I Orchestra frontman David Swain that plays an eclectic mix of everything from funk and disco to Steely Dan and TV cop show themes. **May 24: Groove Spoon.** Local salsa band formerly known as Provecto Sabor. Opening act TBA. **May 30** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **May 31:** TBA.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30–10 p.m.), Thurs. & Sat. (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.), & occasional other nights. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Every Thurs.: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Every Fri: DJ Big Daddie. May 3: The Hummingbirds.** Twang-filled acoustic country and American roots music by the duo of local singer-guitarists S. G. Wood and Rachel Hercula. Winner of a Detroit Music Award as Best Country Band. **May 10: Kris K Band.** Local quartet led by singer-guitarist Kris Kurzawa that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk covers and originals. **May 17: Motor City Outlaws.** Classic rock band from Saline. **May 24: Garden of Souls.** Detroit-area 80s and 90s rock cover band. **May 31: The Witch Doctors.** This local blues and R&B band led by singer-guitarist Thayrone, best known as the host of the nationally syndicated *Bone Conduction Music Show,* plays what Thayrone calls "way-strong mojo, ritualistic barroom blues healing."

down-home funkgrass

Back Forty

The Allman Brothers meet the Grateful Dead

Writing music reviews is much like eating oysters. A lot of bands are worth a little hot sauce, but rarely do they offer up a pearl. And then comes Back Forty. This all-white, all-male Michigan band is not just good local talent. These musicians are just plain good, as in record-contract good.

The trouble is how to promote them. They describe their sound as "down-home funkgrass." That covers some of it. Young Colin Murphy's wicked breakdown fiddle on top of Jeff Friesen's resonant walking bass creates a potent stew, while elder statesman Dan Ripke's classic country compositions and warm, throaty singing easily transport us to a back porch in rural America.

But there's some serious rock 'n' roll here, too. Ripke and Andy Benes both play solid rock guitar—complete with wah-wah moments—and the whole band can jam somewhere in that Allman Brothers–Grateful Dead space. Even new wave, reggae, and world influences are obvious.

What holds it all together is the deep talent of each individual. They all play impressive solos and have something to say. They know their instruments well enough to let loose and see where their eclectic mix will take them. They don't always mesh seamlessly, but the jams never devolve into a mess. Sometimes they're downright transporting.

Benes often swaps his guitar for an electric mandolin, which he can coax way beyond bluegrass into punk and soul. Murphy's fast fiddling shines every time, though it is not quite as beautiful on the slow numbers; his sound is a little bright and tinny for romance. Ripke knows what oldsters like me enjoy—classic rock riffs that keep the younger musicians rooted.

Meanwhile, the rhythm section is no throwaway. Friesen puts the soul food in the mix, and drummer John Yax is thoughtful about how to create different moods. Yet he can be too sparing. I usually opt for plain-spoken drumming, but he can afford to run a few stop signs in this tight traffic.

Almost all of them write original numbers, and they trade off lead vocals. Lyrically, the songs are unpretentious and universal: "Someone tell me how I'm supposed to be. I can't find anyone quite like me." The band is also unabashed about its Michigan roots, with songs like "Lake Erie" and its references to zebra mussels and Ypsilanti, and the beautiful "Sideways Daydream," set under the Michigan moonlight with Stroh's beer. Ripke in particular has a gift for moving and memorable tunes. He is responsible for the band's signature track, "The Back Forty," which is basically an invitation to a party I'd like to attend.

At a recent Ark show they played almost all originals from their 2006 CD and from their brand-new *Big Orange Tent*. But when they started into a slow, heartrending performance of Hank Williams's "Kaw-Liga," my esteem grew further. I've never much cared for that corny song about the wooden Indian, but Back Forty almost got me crying for him.

I hope these fine musicians, who are at TC's Speakeasy on Saturday, May 3, will soon be laughing all the way to the bank.

—Stephanie Kadel-Taras

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. **May 2: Mark Duval.** Indie Americana singer-songwriter from Kalamazoo whose repertoire also includes covers by everyone from Gillian Welch and Iron & Wine to various Michigan songwriters. He is accompanied by singer-guitarist Traci Seuss. **May 3: Sam Corbin.** Lansing pop-folk singer-songwriter whose influences range from Leonard Cohen to Bob Dylan. **May 9: Kristy Hanson.** Grand Rapids folk-rock singer-songwriter who is accompanied by bassist Mike Chiaburo. **May 10: Charlene Kaye.** Energetic local singer-songwriter whose songs range between and sometimes mix together a wide array of styles, from classical, swing, and soul to pop and rock. Accompaning herself on both piano and guitar, she is joined by cellist Taryn Wood, who also provides vocal harmonies. **May 16: Hana Malhas and Chris Dorman.** Double bill. Mahlas is a local singer-songwriter, originally from Jordan, who writes intimate, thoughtful songs and accompanies herself on piano, guitar, and occasionally violin. Dorman is a Lansing singer-songwriter who writes about his friends, family, and local culture. **May 17: Kyle Norris.** Local roots-country singer-songwriter who writes richly imagined, emotionally potent songs that reflect influences as diverse as Ani DiFranco and Dolly Parton. **May 23: Laurel Premo.** U-M student singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist whose songs draw on Celtic, Appalachian, Cajun, Scandinavian, and bluegrass influences. **May 24: Anna Ash & the Family Tree.** See Old Town. **May 30: "Brown Family Cabaret."** Popular local singer-songwriter **Sari Brown** is joined by her brother, jazz comedian and singer-songwriter Andrew Brown and R&B singer-songwriter and pianist Doug Brown.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate basement bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features live music on Fri. and occasional other nights, 7–10 p.m. Cover, dancing. **May 2: The Terraplanes.** See Guy Hollerin's. **May 9: NoXcuses.** Local classic rock, blues, and R&B band. **May 16:** StormFront. A mix of country-rock, blues, pop, and rock 'n' roll by this local sextet led by singer-songwriter Jim Akans. **May 23: Drivin' Sideways.** See Club Above. **May 25: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. 6:30–9 p.m. **May 30: Bowdish Brothers.** Local country trio led by singer-guitarist Mike Smith and featuring 2 other members of the Cadillac Cowboys, bassist Gary Munce and pianist and mandolinist Kelly Schmidt.

Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti **657–2337**

This downtown Ypsilanti theater, newly relocated from Depot Town, features live music Thurs., 9–11 p.m., & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. **Every Thurs.:** TBA. **May 10: "Bare Wire Technologies Showcase."** An evening of experimental music by artists on this label. With Ypsilanti psychedelic electro-grunge musician **Das Chritz,** the local ambient band **Airport,** and the Detroit electronica band **Team Science. May 31: Laura Barrett.** Minimalist trance music for voice and kalimba by this Toronto musician.

The Earle

121 W. Washington **994–0211**

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.–Sat., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillan.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** See above. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, drummer Robert Warren, and bassist Russel Tessier.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti **483–6374**

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.–Thurs., 9 p.m.–1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Mofo Karaoke."** With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." **May 2: Red, White, & Booze.** 1980s metal tribute band. Opening acts are **The Beggars,** a local retro garage rock 'n' roll band, and **Dead Elvis,** an Ypsilanti rockabilly singer-songwriter. **May 3: Tickled Fancy Burlesque Co.** *See "Homegrown Circus," Inside Ann Arbor, p. 11.* Local burlesque troupe. Opening acts are **Arson's Blazing Carnival,** a local carnival sideshow act, and **DJs Damon and Plasma Bubblegum. May 4: I Am Band.** Indie pop band from Berrien Springs. Opening acts are **Soma** and **U.S.R. May 5: Deastro.** Detroit electronica singer-songwriter. Opening act is **Husband and Wife. May 7: Park Ranger.** New York City rock 'n' soul trio. Opening acts are a Dayton indie rock trio, and **Oneironauts,** a Michigan ambient rock band. **May 9: Scott Morgan's Powertrane.** Hard-edged blues and 60s-style Detroit rock 'n' roll by this quartet led by veteran singer-songwriter Morgan, a fixture on the local rock scene since his days with the legendary Rationals in the 60s. Morgan is also one of the best blues singers in town, with a sharp-edged, cannily rhythmic vocal attack that's both mean and soulful. Opening acts are the **Farewells** (see TC's) and **Royale,** an Ypsilanti rock band. **May 10: Sik Sik Nation.** Local psychedelic-blues garage trio. Opening acts are **The Questions,** a Detroit experimental rock band, and **Silverghost,** a Detroit-area pop-rock band. **May 11: Eric Morelli.** Techno-folk singer-songwriter from Pennsylvania. Opening acts are **Burning Cacti,** an experimental psychedelic pop band from Canton, and **Jefferson Golfcart,** a Canton grunge-metal quartet. **May 13: Direct Hits Mod Club.** DJ collective that plays vintage British pop and soul. **May 14: JBoozer.** Rock 'n' roll jam band from St. Louis fronted by Boozer, who (a la Hasel Adkins) sings while playing guitar with his hands and drums with his feet. Opening acts are **Looking for Mammoths,** an Ypsilanti funk-rock trio, and **Nessie,** a powerpop country-rock band from St. Petersburg, Florida. **May 16: We Are the Fury.** Postpunk pop-rock glam quintet from Toledo. Opening acts are the veteran Saline rock 'n' roll band **Novada,** the Royal Oak rock quintet **Brother Ash,** and the Downriver indie rock quartet **The Handgrenades. May 17: Black Jake & the Carnies.** Ypsilanti punk-bluegrass octet. Opening acts are local country-folk singer-songwriter **Mike Boyd,** local alt-country singer-songwriter **Danny Kline & Friends,** and **Chad Williams & the Lonesome Plowboys,** a twangy country-folk ensemble led by local singer-songwriter Williams. **May 18: Blacktooth Brigade.** Holt, Michigan, southern rock band with a hardcore edge. Opening acts are **Subourbon Son,** a Port Huron garage-rockabilly singer-songwriter, and **Common Misconception,** a Detroit pop-punk quartet. **May 20: "The Cycle."** DJs Blakguts and Joe Vargas spin funk, soul, and indie dance records. **May 21: Inkblot.** Local rock band. Opening acts are **Marco Polio & the New Vaccines,** an experimental electronica pop quartet from Detroit, and **Snapshot the Stars,** a Royal Oak acoustic pop-punk quartet. **May 23: The Sugar People.** Local experimental multimedia pop-soul funk band. Opening act is **"The Cycle"** (see above). **May 24: Misty Lyn & the Big Beautiful.** Local country-pop band led by singer-songwriter Lyn. Opening acts are **Empty Orchestra,** the stage name of the Flint experimental country singer-songwriter Stephen Wisniewski, and **Elle & the Fonts,** the stage name of Elle Sawa, a Ferndale emo singer-songwriter who bills herself as "a horrible guitar player [who] likes to think she makes up for it through her exceptionally amusing stage presence and vocal performances." Also, **That's Him, That's the Guy,** an acoustic folk-rock duo from Ferndale. **May 25: The Pattern Traced.** Gainesville, Florida, folk-rock band. Opening acts are **Gillen & Turk,** a Hudson Valley, New York, folk-rock duo, and **Sons of Adray,** a minimalist rock band from Detroit. **May 27: "Club Fit."** Indie rock dance party with DJs Ayron Michael Nelson and Louis P. **May 28: The Lovehandlers.** Detroit alternative rock band. Opening acts are **Arms of Automation,** a Jackson metal-punk hardcore band, and **The Last Encore,** Fenton hardcore metal band. **May 30: Chapstik.** Ypsilanti punkabilly metal quintet led by singer-guitarist Leighton Mann. Opening acts are **Broadzilla,** a popular all-female hardcore thrash band from Detroit with an infectious sense of humor, and **Mazinga,** a veteran Ypsilanti band that plays rough, raw, Detroit-style rock 'n' roll. Also, **The AssButts,** local punk-ska band. **May 31: That Mistake I Made.** Local band that describes its music as "weird shoedubby postrock no-practice jam stupidity." Opening acts are **Wildcatting,** a Downriver punk band, and **Oblisk,** an experimental psychedelic shoegazer band from Detroit.

The Firefly Club

637 S. Main **665–9090**

Jazz and blues club, named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press,* that recently moved to a new location next to South Main Market. Live jazz Mon., 8 p.m.–midnight; occasional Tues., 8–10 p.m. & 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m.; Wed., 8–10:30 p.m. & 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m.; Thurs., 8–11 p.m. & 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m.; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m.; and Sun.,

These businesses are just a ...

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8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., Fri., & Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5:30–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Tues.: Ghostly International.** Electronica DJs. 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: "Nightowl."** Late-night shows with **The Sugar People** (see Elbow Room) and performers TBA the rest of the month. 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Every Wed.** (except May 21)**: Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. 8–10:30 p.m. **Every Thurs.: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by Latin dance lessons ($5 includes cover for the band). 8–11 p.m. **May 2: Luther "Badman" Keith Blues Band.** R&B-inflected Detroit blues band led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Keith. **May 3: Johnny O'Neal Trio.** Detroit jazz ensemble led by pianist O'Neal presents an Oscar Peterson tribute. See Events. **May 9 & 10: Jeff Hamilton Trio.** Straight-ahead mainstream jazz by a trio led by this California-based drummer. See Events. 9 & 11 p.m. **May 13: Lonesome Country.** Hard-driving traditional bluegrass by this Michigan quintet, led by singer-guitarist Chad Jeremy, that won the 2006 Renfro Valley Bluegrass Talent Contest. With mandolinist Kevin Frank, banjoist Lee Kaufmann, fiddler Marty Somberg, and bassist Paul Shapiro. **May 16: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **May 17: Mem Shannon.** Funky New Orleans blues. See Events. **May 20: Cool Moose Orchestra.** Ensemble of local middle and high school jazz musicians led by Glen Tucker. **May 23: Dobbins, Weed, & Krahnke.** Local jazz ensemble featuring drummer Sean Dobbins, pianist Tad Weed, and bassist Kurt Krahnke. **May 24: Marcin Wasilewski Trio.**. Ann Arbor debut of this heralded Polish jazz trio led by composer-pianist Wasilewski. See Events. **May 27: Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble.** Progressive to mainstream jazz by an all-star ensemble led by this highly regarded pianist, a Jackson, Michigan, native. With saxophonist Andrew Bishop, Detroit bassist Tim Flood, and Los Gatos drummer Pete Siers. **May 30:** TBA. **May 31: Mr. B, Steve Nardella, and George Bedard.** Annual reunion concert by this trio of veteran local roots-music luminaries. See Events. 8 p.m.–1 a.m.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron **623–2070**

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live jazz Wed.–Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. Also, karaoke on Tues. Cover Thurs.–Sat. only, no dancing. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **May 2: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **May 3** (5–8 p.m.)**: "5:01 Happy Hour Party."** With the **Ken Cox Trio,** a Detroit jazz trio led by veteran composer-pianist Cox. **May 3: Lester Blues.** Local guitar-based blues band. **May 9: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **May 10: Grievous Angel.** Detroit-area country-rock band that covers everyone from Hank Williams to the Grateful Dead and Metallica. **May 16: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **May 17: Dave Sharp Quartet.** Straight-ahead jazz by this local quartet led by bassist Sharp. **May 18: "Urban Cowgirl Cabaret."** See TC's. **May 20: Nick Strange Cosmic Duo.** Jazz by the local duo of singer-guitarist Dan Orcutt and vocalist Jessica Oberholtzer. **May 23: Erich Goebel Band.** See Guy Hollerin's. **May 24: Lester Blues.** See above. **May 30: Nick Strange Trio.** Popular local jazz-rock fusion dance band whose music draws variously on blues, reggae, calypso, and other idioms. With guest vocalist **Jessica Oberholtzer. May 31: Tumbao Bravo.** Cuban jazz quintet led by local saxophonist and flutist Paul VornHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif. With pianist Sven Anderson, bassist John Barron, and Javier Barrios on timbales.

Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Cover, dancing. **May 3: The Howling Diablos.** Wild-humored Detroit blues and rock 'n' roll band. **May 10: Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio.** Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling roots-rocker performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker blues. **May 16: Erich Goebel Band.** Blues and blues-rock by this Detroit quartet led by singer-guitarist Goebel. **May 17: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 acclaimed CDs. **May 23: Chris Canas & the Blues Revolution.** Detroit blues band fronted by Canas, a young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist. **May 24: Jimmy McCarty & Mystery Train.** Popular rockabilly and roots-rock band led by veteran Detroit guitarist McCarty. **May 30: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, *Well Tuned*. With guitarist Dave Fero, saxophonist James Morse, keyboardist Jim Merte, bassist Al Kalaf, and drummer Mike Adams. **May 31: Thornetta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James–style vocalist.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs., 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, solo piano by **Tim Knapp** (Tues.–Thurs., Sat., & Sun.) and **Adam Riccinto** (Fri.), 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.–midnight. **May 1: Dave Hamilton.** Solo pop singer-guitarist. **May 2 & 3: Bugs Beddow Band.** Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. **May 6–8: Identical Strangers.** Classic rock by the Windsor duo of vocalist Danielle Samson and guitarist Scott Giles. **May 9: Jerry Ross Band.** 7-piece show band. **May 10: Government Honey.** Detroit quartet that plays 1970s dance rock. **May 13–17: Diversity.** Top 40 dance band. **May 20–22: Al Hill Band.** Blues, R&B, and soul standards, originals, and obscurities by this local quartet led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano. **May 23 & 24: Ultraviolet.** Detroit band that plays 70s & 80s rock hits. **May 27–29: Dave Hamilton.** See above. **May 30: 50 Amp Fuse.** 70s and 80s classic rock by this Detroit band. **May 31: Newsmaker.** Motown party band.

Leopold Bros.

523 S. Main St. **747–9806**

This downtown brewpub, which is closing at the end of May, features occasional live music, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Ages 21 & older admitted. Cover, dancing. **May 3: The Great Lakes Myth Society.** Local folk-rock sextet whose music is an eclectic mix of Appalachian music, prog-rock, and sea shanties. Led by singer-songwriter-guitarists Tim and Jamie Monger, who also play accordion and mandolin, respectively. The band recently released its 2nd CD, *Compass Rose Bouquet*. Opening act is **Matt Jones,** a local pop-folk singer-songwriter. **May 9: The New Green.** Local pop-folk octet led by singer-songwriter Steven Clausnitzer that's been compared to the Beatles, Wilco, and Sufjan Stevens. **May 17: Jamie Register & the Glendales.** Motown-esque soul music by a band led by local singer-bassist Register. Opening act is **Legends of the Fall,** a local jazz fusion dance band featuring members of Nomo. Tonight's Food Gatherers benefit includes a $3 discount on the cover with the donation of a can of food. **May 24: Nomo.** Local 9-piece ensemble that plays a mix of Afrobeat with Sun Ra–and Coltrane-influenced jazz. The band recently released its Ubiquity Records debut, *New Tones*. Opening act is **Matt Nisbett,** a local alt-country singer-songwriter. 7:30 p.m.–1 a.m.

Live at PJ's

102 S. First St. **623–1443**

This jazz lounge features live music and DJs Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Karaoke on Mon. Cover, dancing. **May 1: "Dance Night."** With DJ Rex. **May 2: "Dance Night."** With DJ Nick Mixwell. **May 3: "Dance Night."** With DJ Big Daddie Reggie. **May 8–10: The Groove-Matist.** See Melange. **May 15 & 16: "Dance Night."** With DJ Rex. **May 17: "Dance Night."** With DJ Nick Mixwell. **May 22:** TBA. **May 23: May 24: The Groove-Matist.** See Melange. **May 29: "Dance Night."** With DJ Rex. **May 30: The Frontmen.** Detroit quartet that plays a mix of progressive rock and hip-hop. **May 31: "Dance Night."** With DJ Big Daddie Reggie.

Melange Subterranean Bistro

314 S. Main **222–0202**

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music or DJs Thurs.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sat.: The Groove-Matist.** Retro, Top 40, and hip-hop dance party with DJ Mechial White. **Every Thurs.: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **May 2: Noteworthy.** Local funk-soul band. **May 9: R.J.'s Rhythm Rockers.** Swinging Detroit blues band led by drummer R. J. Spangler. **May 16:** TBA. **May 23: Dave Sharp's Secret Seven.** Straight-ahead jazz by this ensemble led by veteran local bassist Sharp. **May 30: Lucas Paul Band.** See above.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.–Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing. **Every Sun.: "Vision Sunday."** Guest DJs spin house and techno records. **Every Mon.: "Factory."** DJ Jinx spins industrial, goth, and synth pop records. Also, drum 'n' bass records with DJ Bassline in the Red Room. **Every Thurs.: "College Night."** DJ Hardy spins Top 40 and hip-hop records. **Every Fri.: "Pride."** DJ Jaces spins high-energy dance tunes in the main room. In the downstairs Red Room, DJ Mark plays retro music videos and DJ John G spins Top 40 records. In the blue room, DJ Mike spins techno records. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** In the main room DJ Hardy plays Top 40 and dance music records.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **May 4: Annie Capps.** Local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes thoughtful, distinctively personal, warmly exuberant folk-rock songs that are both musically sophisticated and down-home. She is accompanied by her husband, guitarist Rod Capps. **May 11: Anna Ash & the Family Tree.** Acoustic pop-folk band led by this local singer-songwriter who has a highly regarded new CD *Hello Friend (from Bird Above)*. **May 18: Nick Strange Cosmic Duo.** See Goodnite Gracie. **May 25: Andina and Rich.** Pop-folk satirical singer-songwriter Sandy Andina and yodeling cowboy Stephen Lee Rich blend contemporary and traditional styles.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues., Thurs., & occasional other nights, 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **May 6: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **May 13: "Anything Goes Open Stage & Song Circle."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **May 20: "Originals Only Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Oz, aka Steve Osburn. Advance sign-up required. **May 27: "AASC Blues Highway 101."** Mickey Richard and Sue Nordman host a mostly acoustic blues jam session. All musicians invited.

The Quarter Bistro

300 S. Maple **929–9200**

This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs. & Fri., 6–9 p.m., and Sat., 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: The Groove-Matist.** See Melange. **Every Sat.: Mike Moore.** Jazz guitarist. **Every Thurs.: Steven Springer.** Roots-rock, reggae, dancehall, and calypso by this former Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band singer-guitarist, winner of 4 consecutive Detroit Music Awards for Best Guitar Player. Some weeks, Springer is joined or replaced by jazz pianist **John Hobart.**

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **483–4470**

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features an open mike on Mon. eve. & Thurs. happy hour, DJs on Tues. & Thurs., and dance bands Fri. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, cover. **Every Fri.** (6–9 p.m.)**: Rob Moses.** Local solo pianist. **Every Mon.: Open Mike Jam.** All musicians invited. **Every Tues.: "College Night."** DJ spins Top 40 dance tunes. **Every Thurs.** (6–9:30 p.m.)**: "Happy Hour Acoustic Sessions."** Popular local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter **John Latini** hosts an acoustic open mike. Sign-up begins at 5:30 p.m. **Every Thurs.: "Thursdays Integrate."** Detroit-area electronic musicians. This month's lineup: **Number 9, Episoldier,** and **Joe G** (May 1), TBA **Jared Wilson** and **Todd Osborn** (May 8), and **Keith Kemp** and **Vinnie** (May 15), **Matt Clarke** (May 22), and **CJ Hahn** and **Robert Lowell** (May 29). **May 2: Drew de Four.** Local singer-songwriter whose influences range from Ray Charles to Peter Gabriel to the Afghan Whigs. Opening acts are **September On,** an Ypsilanti indie rock quartet, and **Mike Shilakes & Taylor Tuckee,** a pop-rock band led by Dearborn singer-songwriter Shilakes. **May 3: Back Forty.** *See review, p. 98.* Local acoustic string jam quintet that plays a brand of twangy roots-folk music fused with elements of jazz and psychedelic rock that it calls "down-home funkgrass." Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD *Big Orange Tent*. Opening act is **Strange Arrangement,** a progressive indie rock quartet from Chicago. **May 7: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with 1980s & 1990s pop dance hits with **DJ B Girrrl. May 9: The View.** Ypsilanti rock quartet fronted by singer-songwriter B. J. Walraven. Opening acts are **Note to Self,** a local indie folk-rock trio, and **Patchwork Paradise,** a young local alternative rock band. **May 10: The Dirty Americans.** Detroit band whose heavy, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll has provoked comparisons to Helmet and the Rollins Band. Opening acts are **Collateral Damage,** a local hard-rock band, and another band TBA. **May 14: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with **"Urban Cowgirl Cabaret,"** a blues, folk, and country song-and-dance revue featuring 5 female vocalists backed by a quartet. **May 16: Coyote Grace.** Indie pop-folk trio from northern California. Opening acts are **Abra Wise,** a local acoustic emo singer-songwriter, and another performer TBA. **May 17: Tickled Fancy Burlesque Co.** See Elbow Room. Opening act is **Arson's Blazing Carnival** (see Elbow Room). **May 21: "She Bang!"** Ladies night karaoke. **May 23: Throttlebody.** Detroit band featuring members of Solid Frog that plays inventive, heavy-hitting rock 'n' roll. Opening acts are **Spiral Crush,** a Detroit rock band, and other bands TBA. **May 24: The Farewells.** Indie neopsychedelic rock band from Wyandotte. Opening acts are **Elephantom,** a Sterling Heights postpunk folk-rock quartet, and another band TBA. **May 28: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with **Fallsway Downs,** an Ypsilanti acoustic rock band led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Jess Klein. Opening act is **Stolen Moments,** a local all-female acoustic trio that plays jazz, blues, and R&B standards. **May 30: Bitter Inks.** Ypsilanti acoustic pop-rock trio. Opening acts are **Big Slik,** an EMU student alternative-rock band, and **Jesse Passage & the Lodge,** a Detroit acoustic folk-rock and country-rock band. **May 31: "Ann Arbor Music Center Presents."** *All ages admitted until 6 p.m.* With several Ann Arbor Music Center student rock bands, including **HMS Epidemic, Shady Lane,** and others TBA. The evening lineup features **2 Day Escape,** a local alternative rock band,and other bands TBA. A benefit for the Crossroads Music Festival. Noon–2 a.m.

Zingerman's Roadhouse

2501 Jackson **663–FOOD**

This west-side restaurant presents live music on its outdoor patio on Wed., 5–8 p.m. No cover, dancing. **May 21: Treetown Swingtet.** Local trio that plays a wide range of swing music, from Cole Porter to Django Reinhardt. Members are acoustic guitarist Brian Delaney, fiddler Paul Winder, and singer-guitarist Myron Grant, who also plays harp and bones. **May 28: Sari Brown.** Local singer-songwriter who writes reverent yet unconventional spirituals, late-night traveling songs, and folk-style story songs with poetic lyrics and a strong political sensibility. ■

Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 9

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

Fun, love, and laughter for a lifetime. **SWPF,** 59, honest, attractive, active, and educated. ISO W/SWPM, 58–68, happy, big-hearted, educated, and generous. ☎5749✍

SHF, 33, plus size ISO SW older teddy bear type. Enjoy music, movies, sports, outdoors, candelit dinners, music, travel, much more. Looking for very serious relationship. ☎5750✍

Unencumbered **DWPF** (think Bette Midler) ISO emotionally and financially secure S/DWPM, 35–50+, for adventure, hot monogamy, and more. Friends first. ☎5752✍

Into photography, arts, music, travel, conversation, companionship. Interesting lady seeks bright, caring SWPM, 45+, for friendship, maybe more! ☎5745✍

SWPF, 49, is one class act. Pretty lady loves country music, singing, acting, romantic dinners, and movies. Seeks SWPM, NS, 44–55. ☎5730✍

SWF, educated, professional, ISO SWPM, 52–65. NS, no tattoo. LTR and possible marriage. ☎5727✍

We do what I want. Queen ISO uxorious S/DWM, 38–60, for Chicago, up north, fireplaces. **SWPF,** 40s, bossy, sensual. For friendship and possible LTR. ☎5729✍

Let's have some fun. I'm 42, brown hair, brown eyes. I enjoy dancing, going to concerts, and having fun in life. Looking for my special man. ☎5711✍

Seeking marriage and family, 40-ish female, no kids, never married, likes pets, home renovation, and new experiences. Serious and sincere only please. ☎5707✍

Slim **PBF,** 50s and fit. Likes movies, dance. No dependents. ISO SPM, 50 to 60, NS, fit. LTR. ☎5693✍

DWCF, 53, NS, with everything but the guy! Happy with my life, ISO the right man to share it with. ISO D/S, WCM, 40s to 50s, NS. Enjoy simple pleasures, simple lifestyle. ☎5680✍

Highly educated, foreign-born American, semiretired **SWF,** 5'2", NS, ND, ISO mentally and emotionally healthy gentleman friend, in his early 70s. ☎5668✍

Men Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 9.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

A tulip is blooming . . . a middle-aged multilingual Asian man is appearing . . . ☎5751✍

Singles player, 58, game for a good-humored doubles partner for a set of tennis or possible match. ☎5744✍

SWM, honest, educated, healthy, liberal, young 50. Cat lover (2 kittens) and musician or music lover are pluses. Seeks good woman/partner. ☎5747✍

DWM, 54, good looking, 6'+, liberal, educated, meditator, seeks spiritual partner. You only must love yourself. ☎5723✍

SWM, 46, loves to play games, uncanny humor, tall, trim, loves cheap coffee, animals, educated, great to talk to, ISO proman, truly seeking, optimistic female. ☎5725✍

SAPM, 60+, NS, ND, 5'6", young looking, fit, home owner, healthy, romantic; love travel, yoga, veg. cooking, cuddles. ISO SA/WF, any age, for active fun, LTR, home-buddy, simple lifestyles. ☎5721✍

Tennis player, film lover, **SWPM,** 5'11", fit, 50. ISO artistic, possibly athletic SWF for LTR. ☎5715✍

Time for fun! NYC native with Midwestern heart, 50s. Consultant/liberal talk show host. Great kisser. ISO happy, thin/average contemporary woman with a great smile. ☎5687✍

DWM, 59, 5'7", ISO good-looking woman, 120–140 lbs., SWF, 45–55, LTR, NS. Loves movies and motorcycle trips. Loves being spoiled. ☎5679✍

Bright, bearded, boyish, monogamous **SWM,** 59, professional, fond of food, film, cats, chats, cuddling, walks, seeks SF for long-term romance, travel, fun. ☎5674✍

Time for a change? **SWPM,** 49, 5'8", fit, introspective, with no dependents, seeking fit SWPF, 35–50, who is flexible, fun, and curious. ☎5704✍

21 things you want in a lover—the song describes me well. **SWM,** 46, healthy, happy, and a Green Builder. Hope to meet a fun, active SF to share life with. ☎5655✍

DWM, 70 years young, 195 lbs., 5'11", attractive, home-centered. Enjoys music, movies, travel. ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. ☎5689✍

Educated, fit **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39–47, who is positive on relationships. ☎3031✍

Friendships

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 9.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

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Men Seeking Men

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It's Easy to Respond to a Personals Ad!

To respond by phone, call (900) 226–8978. Or to respond by phone using a credit card, call (888) 718–4827. You must be 18 or older. $1.95 a minute.

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Responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes, but be sure to include your contact information inside the letter if you wish to receive a reply. Mail all response letters (in a larger envelope) to the Observer; include a check for $3 per response made payable to: **Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.**

Place Your FREE Ann Arbor Observer Personals Ad Today!

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- **Online: www.arborweb.com or www.arborlist.com**
- **Mail or walk-in: 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

Observer Personals Ads are also posted online at:

www.arborlist.com —*totally free classifieds,* and **www.arborweb.com** —*Ann Arbor online*

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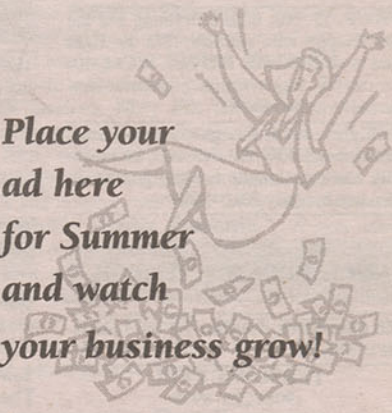

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Ann Arbor Observer

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Classifieds

Employment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 9.

For Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 9.

For sale: Registered Jack Russell puppies, born March 7, ready April 15 for shots and worming. (517) 398–2768.

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Miscellaneous

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Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 131? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, May 9. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

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Commercial for Rent/Lease

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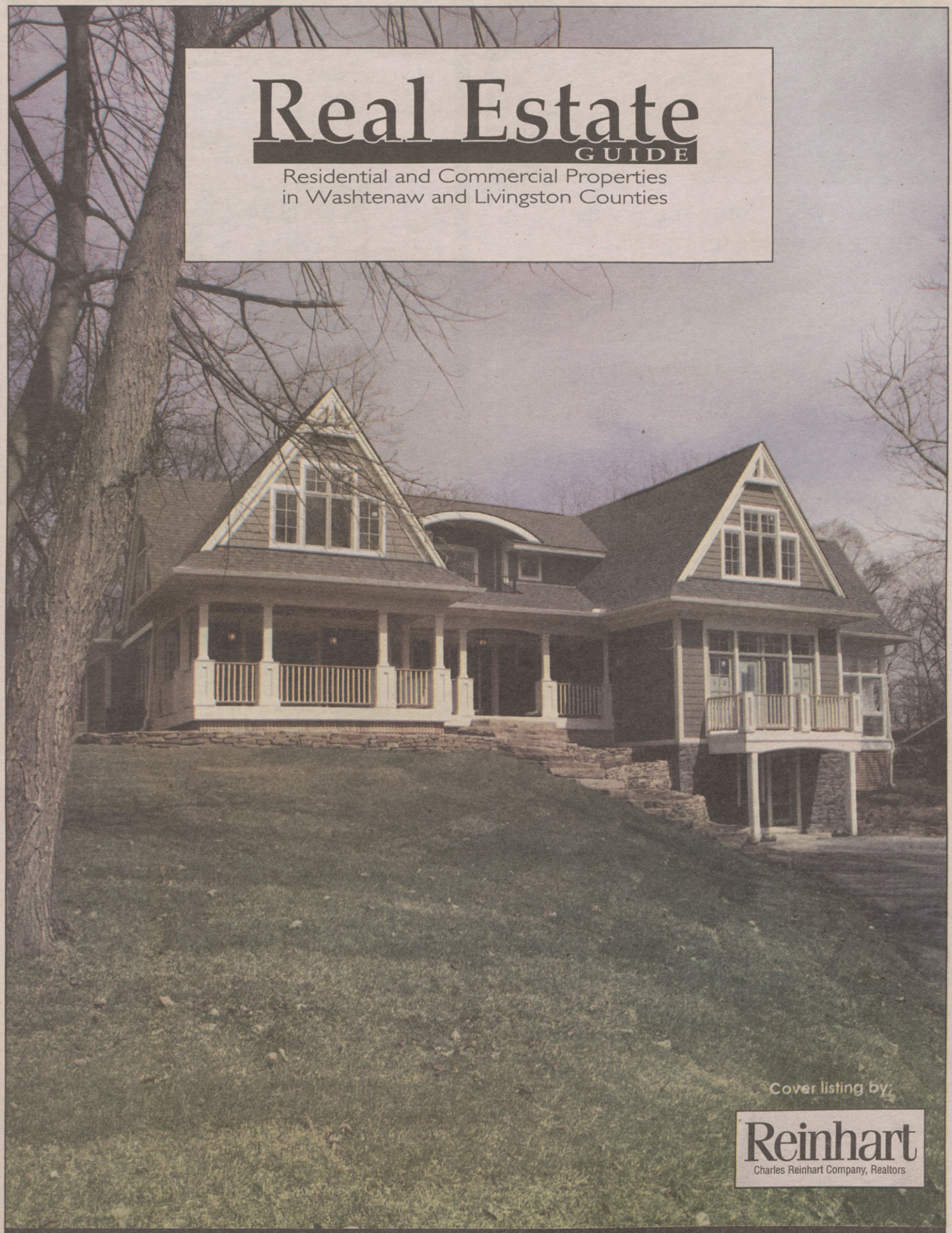

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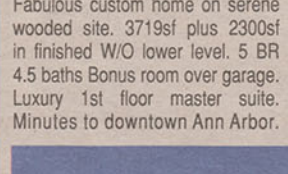

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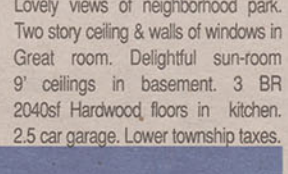

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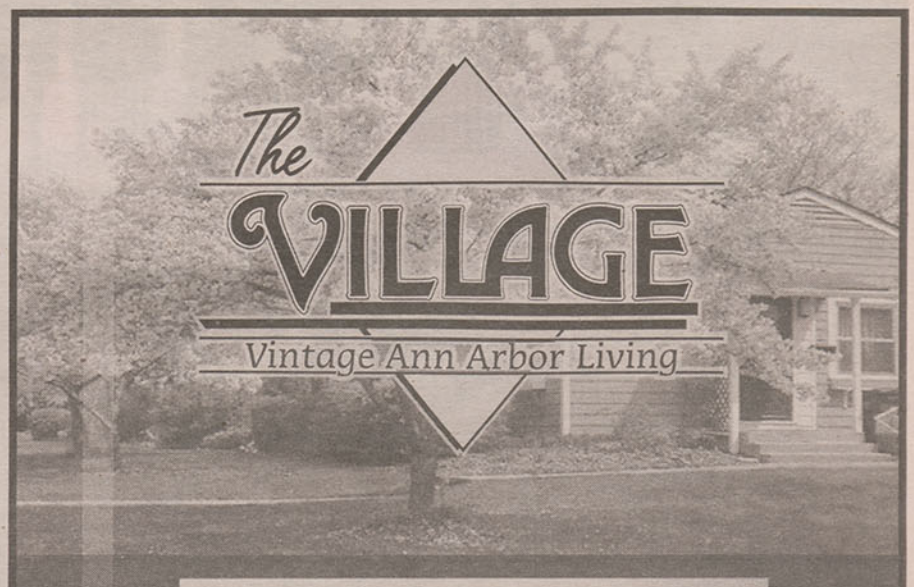

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On the Cover: Spectacular new custom-designed Arts and Crafts home in Ann Arbor Hills. Unique ⅔-acre hilltop setting offers outstanding views of the neighborhood. Built with exceptional quality throughout, the house's many features include French doors inside and out, a chef's kitchen with black granite and cherry counters, a second kitchen in the walkout lower level, gorgeous woodwork, paneled entry with fireplace, and five to six bedrooms including a second-floor master suite with sitting room, walk-in closet, and a fabulous marble bathroom. 1759 Arlington, $1,599,000. Susan DeYoung, 709-5246.

Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie

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Dexter Custom, all brick home with 4 bedVT rooms, 5 baths, 4,603 finished sq. ft., including 1,050 sq. ft. in lower level with daylight windows. Granite counters, cherry cabinets, stainless steel appliances. $549,900. Fran Jones 734-994-6505, 734-669-5925. #2701279

Ann Arbor Hillside ranch with open floor VT plan, 5 bedrooms, St. Charles kitchen overlooking Huron River. Inground pool for summertime enjoyment. Hospitals and shops nearby. $559,000. Terri Spiteri 734-604-6464, 734-669-5973. #2802889

Manchester Gorgeous 46.86 acre parcel with 350 ft. of lake frontage offering privacy, seclusion, excellent hunting and fishing. Updated home, outbuildings. Saline Schools. $569,900. Roger Leutheuser 734-323-5071, 734-669-4533. #2714965

Ann Arbor 1.19 acre site 8 minutes from Ann Arbor. 2-year old classic home with luxury finishes. Unbelievable master suite. Ann Arbor schools, paved roads. $599,000. Pat Durston 734-260-9247, 734-669-5981. #2803582

Manchester Private, wooded 11 acres with VT 450 ft. of lake frontage. 4,000 sq. ft. plus full walkout basement. Many upgrades including 2 stairways and custom kitchen. $600,000. Kari Newman 734-732-0151, 734-433-2194. #2802852

Ann Arbor 1930 Washtenaw. Remarkable VT 1920's classic stucco home totally renovated with impeccable taste and finishes. 4,250 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, study, 4-car garage, finished 3rd floor and walkout. $895,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #2801123

Saline A little paradise on private Sunset VT Lake. 1996 Built Holley showcase ranch, 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath. Rich color and imported, carved panels, elegant finishes highlight much of home. $945,000. Nancy Chenevey 734-645-4414, 734-669-5962. #2710573

Ann Arbor Architect Fiske Kimball designed this fabulous Ives Woods, 3-story home. Beautifully restored and maintained. Gorgeous Pewabic tile surrounds fireplace in spacious living room. $999,900. Fran Jones 734-994-6505, 734-669-5925. #2803256

Ann Arbor Grand 3-story Ann Arbor icon. Beveled glass, walnut French doors and molding, 4 fireplaces, spacious rooms, screened porch. Walk to U of M. Wonderful and rare. $1,050,000. Jeannette Middleton 734-663-4723, 734-669-5826. #2803940

Ann Arbor Custom designed and built home. 2-story living room, formal dining, screened porch, ironwood deck overlooking wooded yard. Walkout lower level. $1,100,000. Carolyn Lepard 734-769-3800, 734-669-6808. #2801645

Dexter Fantastic country French estate just VT ouside Dexter. This home has been extensively updated. Each room has the charm of yesteryear. Absolutely amazing gardens. $1,197,500. Kim Foster 734-678-7839, 734-669-5994. #2709945

Ann Arbor 3650 Daleview Dr. Exceptional VT 11,450 sq. ft. brick home on 2.6 mature, wooded acres with exquisite finishes, with warmth, elegance and charm. 5 bedroom suites, 6.5 baths. Much more! $3,600,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #2802987

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DIXBORO FARMS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4½-bath new construction on a gorgeous 2-acre estate lot in this popular NE Ann Arbor neighborhood. Quality features everywhere including all brick exterior, cherry kitchen with granite counters, extensive custom molding and trim, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $950,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Magnificent 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built all brick two-story was featured by the Home and Garden Channel. Upgraded features include custom kitchen with granite, cherry paneled den, luxurious first-floor master, bonus room, and finished basement. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100. $899,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BARTON HILLS AREA – New construction just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and U of M. This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a peaceful 1.5 acre parcel features wonderful oversized rooms, ample hardwood floors, custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury master suite. $850,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath ranch by Landau rests on a peaceful, wooded 2.3 acre site overlooking Flemming Creek. Top quality throughout this home features all cherry hardwood floors, great room with vaulted ceiling, cherry kitchen with granite, luxury master suite, screened porch, and finished walkout basement. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HAMBURG TOWNSHIP – Amazing 5-bedroom, 4½-bath custom-built home on a spectacular wooded, hilltop setting in Winan's Woods. The quality of features, craftsmanship, thoughtfulness, and décor in this home are unmatched. Stunning home features two-story great room, cherry kitchen with granite, luxury master suite, and incredible finished walkout basement. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Your own private estate backing to Peach Mountain. This incredible property is loaded with many unique and top quality amenities. Five-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home features soaring ceilings, upgraded materials, and finished walkout basement. Second detached 3-car garage with apartment above is perfect for cars, boat, hobbies, etc. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PHEASANT HOLLOW – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath new construction just minutes to town. Stately stone exterior, great room with vaulted ceiling and built-ins, dream kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters, and professional grade appliances, luxury first-floor master suite, and screened porch. $695,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BURNS PARK!!! – Rare opportunity, a new home in the heart of Ann Arbor. This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home, one block from park. Custom kitchen, granite counters, ample hardwood floors, and luxury master suite with walk-in closet and dream bath. You can still pick your own colors. $695,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3-bath detached condo rests on the finest lot in Stonebridge. Enjoy panoramic views of the large pond, twin islands, and #17 fairway from the large deck, screened porch, or brick paver patio. Wonderful interior amenities include cherry kitchen, great room with 10 ft. ceiling, den, great master suite, and finished walkout basement. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK WOODS – Incredible 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built ranch overlooking the lake in one of Saline's most desired subs. Incredible lot featuring dense woods, extensive landscaping, deck, patio, and screened porch overlooking the water. Stunning interior with wonderful space throughout. Great room with water view, spacious kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PINCKNEY – Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home with 90 ft. of frontage on Highland Lake. This home is just paradise with panoramic views of lake and 11,000 acres of state owned land. The interior is loaded featuring oversized great room, maple kitchen with granite, and dream master suite. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WOODCREEK- This stunning 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home rests on a quiet interior lot overlooking common land in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Walk to Borders, Whole Foods, and Starbucks. The interior of this home is a show piece featuring ample hardwood floors, great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $448,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home on a quiet tree lined street in Saline. Great lot with trees and extensive landscaping. This attractive colonial features 9' first-floor ceilings, large family room, great formal space, luxury master suite, and finished basement with rec room and bath. You will love it. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Brand new 2-bedroom, 2-bath Highpoint Villa loaded with quality features and amenities. Enjoy the carefree lifestyle in this never lived in unit. Highlights include great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, luxury master suite with huge walk-in closet, and view out basement. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WILDWOOD – This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial is the best home available in this popular Saline neighborhood. Enjoy the oversized lot backing to protected woodlands from the large deck. The interior is upgraded in every way and features open family room with fireplace, large kitchen with granite counters, designer tile baths, and finished lower level with daylight windows. $314,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – OLD WEST SIDE – Extensively remodeled three-unit just one block from the football stadium. Three one-bedroom apartments, gorgeous lot, great for owner occupied or could be converted back to single family. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NORTHVIEW – This 5-bedroom, 3½ -bath two-story rests on one of the finest lots available in this very popular neighborhood in Saline. Move in and enjoy the gorgeous trees and wildlife from the oversized deck. The interior is like new with open family room, spacious kitchen, good sized bedrooms, and finished walkout basement. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath former builder's model home in Sandhill Estates is loaded with quality upgrades. Great design featuring two-story foyer, open great room, large kitchen with island, first-floor master suite with sitting area, and three-car garage. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MILAN – This is one of the nicest homes you will find. Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a spacious acre lot in York Township. The list is long: cherry kitchen, remodeled baths, perfect décor, finished walkout basement, huge deck and patio. WOW! $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Hard to find 2-bedroom, 2-bath handyman special on a wooded 1.5 acre lot on Huron River Dr. Great opportunity for fix up, major addition, or tear down of this ranch style home on Ann Arbor's west side. Great location just minutes to downtown and U of M. $275,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MAPLEWOOD FS – This super sharp 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial has been completely updated over the past three years. Perfect move-in condition home features large living room, spacious kitchen, great lot with deck, nice master suite, and finished basement. You will love it. $234,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WARNER CREEK – This 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of Saline's most desired subs features extensive renovation inside and out. Wonderful floor plan with open kitchen to family room, large formal rooms, spacious master suite, and big back yard. Updates include new roof, carpet, paint, tile, and bath. You will be impressed. $219.000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NORMAL PARK – This 3-bedroom, 1 ½-bath Arts and Crafts inspired home has been completely renovated and is absolutely gorgeous. Incredible inside and out features include huge yard with multi-tier deck and hot tub, large living room with fireplace, extensive moldings, remodeled kitchen with granite counters, and hardwood floors throughout. You will not find a nicer home. $198,500. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GREENHILLS – Wonderful 4-bedroom, 3½-bath Greenhills condo backing to open space and trees. Enjoy one of Ann Arbor's best locations just minutes to everything.Two walls have been removed to turn 4 bedrooms into 2, great space!! Interior is wonderful with formal living and dining, hearth room, large master suite, and finished basement. $189,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEWPORT CREEK – Stunning is the only word that describes this custom-built masterpiece. Every detail is perfect inside and out. Gorgeous wooded setting backing to protected common area. Interior features gracious living room, two-story family room, gourmet kitchen, screened porch, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NW ANN ARBOR – This gorgeous, custom-built home by Henry Landau rests on a 8+ acre country estate. Grounds include extensive landscaping, circle drive, and outbuilding. Home is rock solid with an all-brick exterior. Interior features include two-story living room, striking dining room with barrel ceiling, custom kitchen, dream master suite and finished walkout basement. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Truly spectacular 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built home resting on an a stately 2.2 acre parcel just west of town. This home features every conceivable amenity including dream kitchen with maple cabinets and professional grade appliances, two-story family room, cherry trim and floors, luxury master suite, smart house technology, Gunite pool, 5-car garage space, and more. $1,000,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE - 5-bedroom, 4½-bath custom-built home rests on an acre setting just minutes to US-23. Features include heated stone flooring, dream kitchen with maple cabinets, granite, and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite with incredible bath and two walk-in closets, bonus room, finished basement, and 4-car heated garage. WOW! $995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – BURNS PARK - This is not your typical Burns Park home. Gracious 3-bedroom, 2½-bath custom-built contemporary overlooking the Park!! You will be amazed at the quality features and incredible design of this truly one-of-a-kind home. Custom kitchen, sun room, and den all have views of the park. Luxury master suite, spacious bedrooms, and finishable third floor. $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – This incredible 6-bedroom, 5½-bath custom-built waterfront home overlooking the golf course is just stunning. Every detail is covered featuring two-story family room with wall of glass to water, gourmet kitchen with Sub Zero fridge, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement with great multi-use space. $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEWPORT CREEK – Custom-built 5-bedroom, 4½-bath colonial backing to protected common area in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. This home is loaded with quality features and amenities including two-story foyer, den, maple kitchen with granite counter tops, family room with vaulted ceiling, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BELLEVILLE – Stunning 5-bedroom, 2½-bath home with panoramic views of Belleville Lake. Enjoy wonderful lake front living with extensive sea wall, dock, and boat lift. Massive ranch home loaded with extras. Family with gorgeous fireplace, sun room, kitchen, and master suite all have lake views. Finished basement. $699,900 . **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STRAWBERRY LAKE – This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home rests on one of the finest lake front settings you will find anywhere. Enjoy gorgeous bluff top views from the large deck and year-round sun room of one of the area's best all-sports lakes. Home features substantial updates including cherry kitchen with Corian counters, all new baths with granite, fresh paint, and finished walkout basement. $624,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL PARK – This custom built 5 BR, 3½ BA home is one of the finest on the market today. You will be impressed by the extensive upgrades and professional décor. Gorgeous lot overlooking the pond, custom kitchen with maple cabinets, two story great room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement with home theater and bar. $599,900 **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built, builder's home on a peaceful acre lot. This 3-year-old home has all the bells and whistles. Inviting brick and stone interior, two-story great room with vaulted ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, dream master suite, and finished walkout basement. $589,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Gorgeous interior features large great room with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. $519,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Are you looking for a GORGEOUS wooded setting just minutes to Ann Arbor and I-94? This is it!! Enjoy the complete seclusion and privacy of this 2.1 acre wooded setting. The 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features great room with vaulted ceiling, spacious oak kitchen, study loft, and private master suite. $399.900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PLEASANT LAKE – This 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful lakefront settings in Washtenaw County. Enjoy panoramic views of the lake from the this bluff-top setting. Home features many updates including maple kitchen with Corian counters, living room with stone fireplace, and large decks. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – Are you looking for a peaceful country retreat just minutes to I-94? Oversized ranch on almost 4 acres of beautiful wooded land. This home has an incredible amount of space featuring wonderful living areas and many extra multi-use space perfect for home office, hobbies, etc. Extensive updates including granite kitchen, luxury master bath, and wine room. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

OLD WEST SIDE – Completely renovated 3 BR, 2 BA home walking distance to Downtown. This home is loaded with charm and character featuring extensive hardwood floors, updated kitchen, and new remodeled master suite with luxury bath and walk-in closet. This is a great home. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR – This is not your typical Ann Arbor ranch. Backing to Pioneer woods, this home has been completely remodeled and expanded. Perfect for a single person or a couple, this home features a huge master suite overlooking the woods with upgraded bath, the backyard is all deck with sitting areas and complete privacy, finished basement, and more. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on almost 11 pastoral acres is close to perfect. Custom-built by Don Gaddes, this home was built with extreme attention to energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Wonderful home with large great room, maple kitchen, nice master suite, and mostly finished basement with view out windows. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LINCOLN PINES – Super sharp 4 BR, 3½ BA home in one of the area's most popular subs. This home is great inside and out featuring extensive landscaping, large deck, and pond view. Interior is gorgeous with two story great room, open kitchen with hearth room, first floor master suite, and finished basement with viewout windows. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – Newer custom-built 4-bedroom, 3-bath ranch on peaceful 3½-acre setting just outside of town. Wonderful floor plan features great room with vaulted ceiling, kitchen with handmade hickory cabinets, nice master suite, and finished basement with view out windows and large rec room, bedroom, and bath. $295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SILO RIDGE - Perfect 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a quiet one acre cul-de-sac lot. Wonderful setting with spacious backyard, extensive landscaping, and large deck. Interior features open family room, first-floor den, nice kitchen, and spacious master suite. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SALINE – Nicely updated 3-bedroom, 3½-bath ranch on a peaceful acre lot between Ann Arbor and Saline. Great floor plan with formal living and dining room, family room with fireplace, screened porch, spacious bedrooms, and fully finished basement with great multi-use rec area and bar. You will love it. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CLINTON – Brand new 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on peaceful acre lot just outside of town. Great location, close to Ann Arbor, Adrian, and Tecumseh. This home has wonderful features and amenities throughout including great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen with maple cabinets and upgraded counter tops, den, formal dining, luxury master suite, and walkout basement. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – This 3 BR, 2½ BA condo is one of the true hidden gems to discover. Overlooking the Rasin River, you will not find a more dramatic view of nature, trees, and water. The interior is fabulous with numerous upgrades, custom kitchen, great room with vaulted ceiling, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $234,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR – Great 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch home walking distance to UM hospital, Lower Town, and downtown Ann Arbor. This home is in perfect move-in condition and features large backyard, one car garage, and neutral décor throughout. $174,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – Extensive updated 2-bedroom, 1½-bath ranch on a spacious lot walking distance to downtown. The list of updates is significant including roof, windows, all flooring, finished basement, and appliances. Oversized attached garage with work space and 3-season porch. This is a wonderful home. $169,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Very sharp 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo, walking distance to downtown Dexter. Great condo with wonderful décor, large master suite, open kitchen, and screened porch. You will love it. $129,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LSITING-WEATHERSTONE – Super sharp 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in one of Ann Arbor's most desired complexes. This unit is perfect featuring a quiet view of a pond, great floor plan with flex-use formal dining area, and extensive interior updates including hardwood floor in living room, kitchen, and dining areas. $126,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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Dexter 8032 Donovan. Desirable contemporary home with flair on 2.5 wooded acres. New everything! 4 bedrooms, study, 1st floor master suite. Finished walkout lower level. Beautiful setting! $389,000. #2803858

Ann Arbor 505 E. Huron #505. Fabulous, totally renovated southwest corner condo in Sloan Plaza. Drop dead gorgeous with 1 bedroom and study, top-of-the-line throughout. $665,000. #2802970

Ann Arbor 3304 Alpine Dr. Totally renovated townhouse condo with golf course views. New hickory kitchen, appliances, paint, lights, hardwood, carpet. Wood floors on 1st floor, private patio. $169,000. #2800723

Ann Arbor 2977 Trillium Lane. Pristine and loaded with updates. Open colonial with 2,790 sq. ft., beautiful new kitchen, wood floors, 1st and 2nd floor master suites, 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. 2.75 acres. $429,000. #2803793

Ann Arbor 4765 Stonehill Lane. Fabulous 7 acre hilltop setting surrounded by nature and wonderful sunsets. 4,450 sq. ft., 1st floor master suite, finished walkout, magnificent windows, 10 ft. ceilings. $659,000. #2801006

Dexter 8866 Stoney Field Dr. Pristine 2-story on beautifully landscaped acre. Upgrades! 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1st floor master. 2-story great room with built-ins, stainless appliances. Study, bonus room. $338,000. #2803566

Ann Arbor 1400 Westfield. Inviting traditional home totally renovated and remodeled located on over 3/4 acres. New kitchen, hardwood floors, beautiful lot and location. $445,000. #2803346

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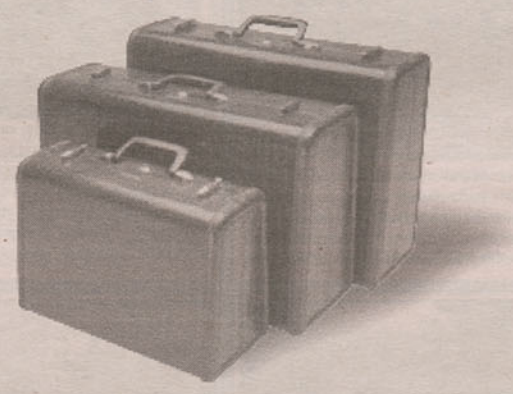

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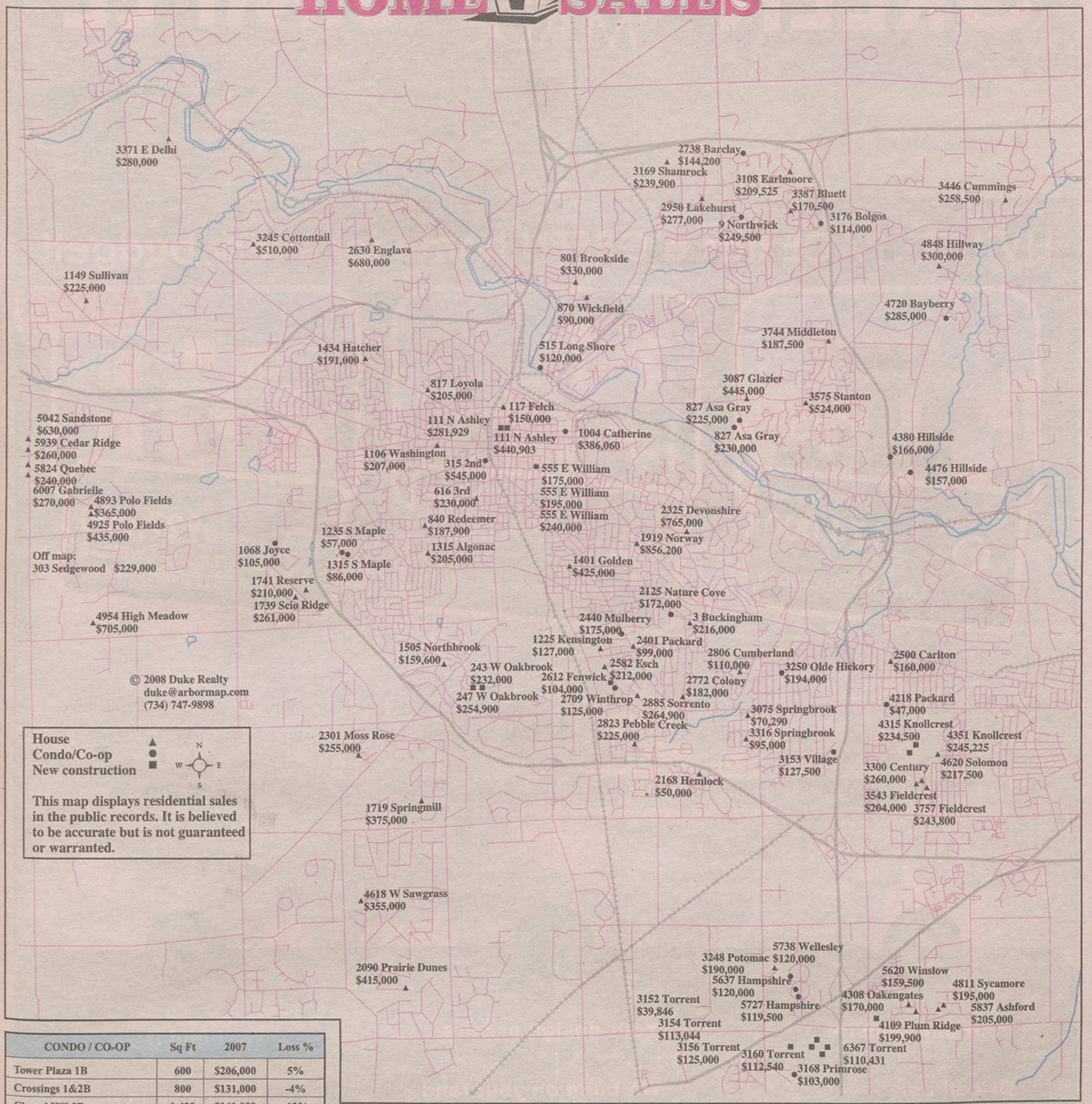
MARCH 2008

HOME SALES



CONDO / CO-OP	Sq Ft	2007	Loss %
Tower Plaza 1B	600	$206,000	5%
Crossings 1&2B	800	$131,000	-4%
Chapel Hill 3B	1,430	$161,000	-12%
Briarcrest 2B	983	$118,000	-12%
Turnberry Village 2B	1,123	$146,000	-12%
Weatherstone 2B	1,125	$134,000	-13%
Liberty Pointe 2B	1,378	$166,000	-14%
Georgetown Commons 2B	882	$114,000	-14%
Barclay Park 2B	1,900	$198,000	-15%
Alpine 2Bedroom	1,280	$150,000	-16%
Chapel Hill 2B	1,280	$141,000	-20%
Walden Hills 2B	1,173	$101,000	-21%
Barclay Park 3B	2,050	$211,000	-23%
Geddes Lake Co-op 2B	1,280	$90,000	-24%
Village Co-op 1B	1,080	$62,000	-24%
Geddes Lake Co-op 3B	1,515	$91,000	-37%

Sales of condos and co-ops perked up a little in March: twenty-eight closings were the highest total for the month since 2005. It's too small a bump to justify declaring that the market has magically turned around—but it does suggest that the dramatic slide in prices is finally attracting buyers back to the market. And doesn't it make sense that the spike in sales would coincide with the onset of the spring market?

How far have prices fallen? The table at left illustrates that they fell off a very steep cliff indeed. Selected condos are ranked according to how far their average (mean) prices fell, comparing those sold in 2007 with those sold in 2004. Only Tower Plaza posted any gain at all, while fourteen out of the sixteen floor plans we sampled sank by more than 10 percent. By comparison, the average price of a single-family home slipped just 5 percent during the same time frame.

The biggest losses bullied Ann Arbor's big housing cooperatives, Geddes Lake and the Village. It can't be that the size of these co-ops is somehow to blame. Geddes Lake Townhomes suffered disproportionate losses even though its floor plan offered the same 1,280 square feet of living space as Alpine and Chapel Hill condominiums. The co-ops' underlying debt is more likely to be a factor.

—Kevin Duke

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Marketplace Changes

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

Robots on Liberty

826 adds a storefront

Positronic brains are difficult if not impossible to come by, even on eBay. But you'll be able to buy them for ten bucks apiece when **Liberty Robot Supply & Repair** opens in mid-May. The store caters to all sorts of other robot needs, too, from a $150 Robo-Panda (a two-foot-high, remote-controlled mechanical panda) to a $10 I-Growbot (a nightmarish cross between a robot and a Chia pet).

And the truth is, those positronic brains are easy to come by elsewhere if you know what to ask for. They're actually plasma lamps.

"We repurpose most of our products," explains Amy Sumerton, program director of 826michigan. Other repurposed products include a novelty pen with a big, squishy bulb on one end that the store is marketing as a Robot Brain Insert, and a fiber-optic lamp with dozens of long, wavy lights that's been recast as a Robot Toupee / Party Hat.

826michigan is behind Liberty Robot Supply & Repair, figuratively and literally. It's a nonprofit organization dedicated to mentoring kids in creative writing, and it's in the rear of Liberty Robot Supply & Repair. All of the store's profits go to help fund the program.

Ann Arbor's 826 chapter is one of seven across the country, all of them are modeled after the original, 826valencia in San Francisco. Named after its street address, 826valencia was founded in 2002 by David Eggers, best-selling author of *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* and a founder of *McSweeney's* magazine. Liberty Robot Supply & Repair is unique to 826michigan, but all 826 chapters have a whimsical retail store attached to their writing centers—the one at 826valencia has a pirate theme, while kids can buy superhero supplies at 826NYC.

The store's grand opening is Saturday, May 17, at 7 p.m. "On the seventeenth we'll have as many people as possible walking around town all day in homemade robot costumes," says Sumerton. The costumes will have the name of the store and the time of grand opening stenciled on the front. If you're free that day, Sumerton still needs volunteers to walk around in the robot costumes. "Anyone can do it," she says.

Liberty Robot Supply & Repair, 115 East Liberty, 761–3463, 826michigan.org. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed Sun.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

826michigan's Amy Sumerton caters to all your robot needs.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Quickie Burger's controversial logo could have been worse, notes Krazy Jim's owner Rich Magner: "She could have been riding a hot dog."

Let them eat sandwiches

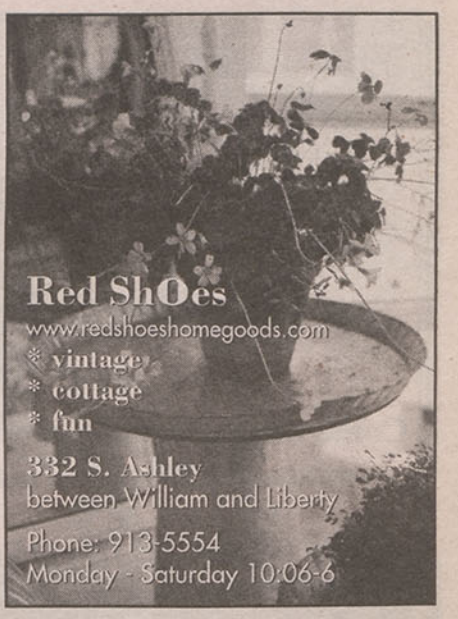
Three places bet on bargain eats

Ann Arbor may be mired in recession, but people do need to eat, even if only sandwiches. Three sandwich shops opened here recently.

In mid-March, **Quickie Burger & Dogs** took over the former Tubby's Submarines at State and Hill. The owner is Varujan Arman, a twenty-six-year-old U-M psychology graduate and U-M law student on hiatus. According to his father, Kerope Arman, an Oakland County developer ("I'm the flunky who sits in for my son so he can come in and work until four a.m."), Varujan felt his student experience here had given him a unique understanding of what makes the perfect student eatery, one that could stand up to the competition of Mr. Spot, BTB, and Krazy Jim's Blimpy Burger, all within a Frisbee throw. "Varujan designed the very diverse menu, which is cognizant of vegetarian needs. We use Knight's meat. His mom, Maria, comes around and makes the macaroni and cheese and spinach dip," says Kerope.

Besides, he adds, "we love the neighborhood." Working a recent late shift, he says about the area, "On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night, it's like New York City!"

"Quickie Burger" sounds like an innocuous name for a short-order restaurant, but give it a logo of a bosomy woman riding a hamburger and you're just asking for a bitch slap from the Stonewall Democrats, the U-M's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender caucus. The group had a petition circulating before you could say "intersectionality." The *Michigan Daily* reported the controversy, and it immediately



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Marketplace Changes *continued*

spun off into blogland—but not entirely in the way the Stonewall Democrats had hoped.

Kerope says he and Varujan have "received positive feedback from Florida, California. It seems like everyone supports us. People recommend we not change it. We never meant to offend anyone. We like the logo. We think it's nice, and many people feel that way as well. Absolutely we're going to keep it."

The nearby sandwich shops have been enjoying the fracas. Keith McKendry, co-owner of Mr. Spot two doors down, laughs at the Armans' claim that the innuendo was unintentional: "Have you looked at the menu? 'Naked' fries? 'Dirty' fries?" But Rich Magner, owner of Krazy Jim's Blimpy Burger, points out that the logo "could have been worse. She could have been riding a hot dog."

Quickie Burger & Dogs, 800 South State, 222–4555. Daily 11 a.m.–4 a.m.

Perhaps the quietest new business in town is the **Lunch Box Cafe.** Huisung Dompkey, former owner of the Aloha Grill in Briarwood, opened it in March as a canteen in the Hogback Officenter on Hogback Road.

Dompkey, who runs the cafe with her daughter Casey, is Korean; she spent several years in Hawaii before coming to Ann Arbor ten years ago. The Lunch Box has no real kitchen (it was preceded by the Kitchen Table Cafe, which served only cold sandwiches), but with an assortment of portable grills, stoves, and fryers, Dompkey manages several cooked Asian entrees, not to mention burgers, fries, and steak hoagies.

There's no signage on the outside of the building, but if you can find your way to the pleasant atrium of building 2008, you can't miss it. And now that the weather is nice, you can take your sandwich or box lunch outside to the peaceful rock-and-juniper-strewn terrace.

Lunch Box Cafe, 2008 Hogback Road, 677–9280. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun.

Potbelly Sandwich Works, a Chicago-based chain, opened its third Ann Arbor store in early April in the east half of the former Pier One at Cranbrook Village. Costing only slightly more than a Subway, and assembled in the same fashion—before your eyes, while you call out your toppings and garnishes—a Potbelly sandwich comes warm, and with warmer surroundings than its competitor.

At present, Potbelly's corner of Cranbrook is a construction zone. It's not noisy, but with the back end of the building being renovated, the parking lot in flux, and the old Mervyn's being reconfigured for REI (see below) and Whole Foods, which is slated to open this fall, the area is littered with orange cones and heavy machinery. Nevertheless, business was brisk when we visited, just three days after opening—perhaps because John Latini, a well-known steel-guitar-playing singer-songwriter, was playing the lunch hour. Manager Chip DeLong says all Potbelly stores feature live music. At State Street it happens in the evening; here and at Arborland, though, Potbelly's business comes mostly from the mall, during the day—so in those two locations, the music happens at lunchtime.

Potbelly Sandwich Works, 980 West Eisenhower Parkway (Cranbrook Village), 913–2499, potbelly.com. Sun.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m.

The Parks take their own advice

Opening Coffee House Creamery

"We kept saying, 'Someone should open an ice cream–coffee shop there,'" says Natalie Park about the vacant space in the new strip mall in front of the Quality 16 movie theater on Jackson. Then, one day last summer, her husband came home and said, "We keep saying someone should . . . but that someone could be us."

Nine months later, it was. The **Coffee House Creamery,** a combination coffeehouse and ice cream parlor, opened in early April. Natalie blends her own beans; she describes her flagship brew, the Coffee House Creamery Signature Blend, as "a dark-roast, bold coffee with a very smooth finish." She also offers organic beans like Sumatran and Colombian, and a rotating selection of flavored coffees.

The ice cream is made by Hershey (no

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Natalie and Tallus Park at their new cafe. Natalie says the kids help "by standing outside eating ice cream, bringing in more customers."

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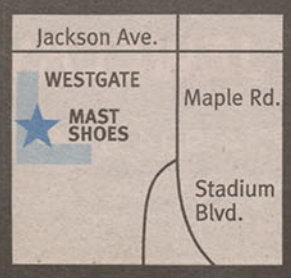

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Marketplace Changes *continued*

relation to the chocolate people, although both Hersheys are in Pennsylvania) because the Parks grew up in West Virginia, where Hershey is a regional favorite, and they've never found ice cream they liked as much. They also sell baked goods like muffins, biscotti, and cookies, all from Deda's Bakery. Deda's makes the cookies from Natalie's recipe. "I developed them fifteen years ago when people kept asking for chocolate cookies, peanut butter cookies, and oatmeal cookies," she says. "I thought, 'All those flavors go together, so I'll bake one cookie with all three.'" Right now they're her biggest seller.

Natalie, thirty-three, runs the store full time. Her husband, Tallus, thirty-four, co-owns the business but works full time as an engineer. Natalie says his duties in the shop are fairly narrowly defined. "He's really here to help me if a piece of equipment goes down," she laughs. At seven and eight, their children are too young to work in the store, says Natalie, but they're just the right age to advertise it: "They're being a great help by standing outside eating ice cream, bringing in more customers."

Coffee House Creamery, 3780 Jackson Road, 222–0555. coffeehousecreamery.com. Mon.–Thurs. 7 a.m.–11 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

Briefly Noted

Carpenter Bros. Hardware in Plymouth Mall, a family owned store for thirty-six years, has just passed into a different family. Armando Reyes, former shop rat, is now sole owner. "It was a shock at the beginning—paying the bills and all," he says. "I dealt with it all before as manager, but it wasn't my money then." Reyes started working at Carpenter Bros. "thirteen years ago, right before I graduated from Huron High. I started back in the shop, doing lawn mower and snowblower maintenance.

"I went to college, but when I graduated the jobs were kind of iffy and I didn't want to move away," continues Reyes, who is now thirty, married, and the father of a two-year-old. So he came back to Carpenter Bros., and about two and a half years ago owner Sam Hamilton approached him with a plan to make him the manager with an option to buy.

Reyes says he has a few changes in mind, like getting the inventory on computer and perhaps starting a yard service business for neighborhood residents. "A lot of people in the neighborhood are getting older and don't want to do it anymore," he says.

Even the ultrautilitarian hardware business is feeling the recession, according to Reyes. "They say Ann Arbor has its own economy, so I think we're going to be okay," he says. "But it's hard. It's tough. We've been feeling it for the past five years."

Carpenter Bros. Hardware Do It Center, 2753 Plymouth Road, 663–2111, carpenterbros.doitbest.com. Summer hours as of May 1: Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

❧❧❧

REI wouldn't exist if it weren't for a lousy ice axe. In 1938 Seattle mountaineer Lloyd Anderson ordered a $7 ice axe out of a catalog, but the one he received was double the price he expected and not nearly as good. So Anderson went looking and found a top-quality Austrian Academ Pickel ice axe for $3.50. Since a lot of his mountain climbing buddies were having similar problems finding decent equipment, Anderson decided to set up a co-operative to scout out good-quality gear at the best possible prices. Twenty-two friends chipped in a buck apiece, and REI was born. Today, Recreational Equipment International is the largest consumer cooperative in the country, with eighty-plus stores and more than 3 million members.

REI hopes to pick up a few more once its new Ann Arbor store opens in the former Mervyn's in late April. REI carries equipment and clothing for just about every outdoor activity, from mountain climbing, hiking, and camping to skiing sports, cycling, and kayaking. The store will rent gear, too, and even fix bicycles.

Although anyone can shop at REI, members' onetime $20 fee lets them share in the company's profits through an annual dividend that amounts to about 10 percent of their yearly purchases. And while that works out to roughly what you'd save by joining, say, Best Buy's Rewards program, REI members also get a say in how the company is run, mostly through the right to vote for the board of directors.

REI has expanded into all areas of outdoor gear, and it still sells ice axes. You won't find an Austrian Academ Pickel axe for $3.50, though—the manufacturer doesn't exist anymore, and the dollar is a pale shadow of what it was in 1938. These days, a top-of-the-line Petzl Charlet Aztar ice axe costs $205.95.

REI, 970 West Eisenhower Parkway (Cranbrook Village), 827–1938, rei.com. Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

❧❧❧

People who used to go to 212 East Washington when they got a craving for curry can start going back. Shehan Shah served Indian cuisine at that address for seventeen years until it closed in 2006; now the space is scheduled to reopen in early May as **Mahek Indian Cuisine.**

Owner Gary Singh doubled the size of the place by leasing the empty storefront next door and knocking a hole in the wall, increasing the seating from thirty to eighty. The original space has Shehan Shah's cozy ambience and exposed-brick walls; the new one, formerly an office, is lighter and brighter, with the walls painted a light, creamy orange. Singh put in new lighting throughout, including chandeliers, and also expanded the kitchen. "The kitchen was very small," says Singh. "Now we have a big kitchen down there." He means "down there" literally—the kitchen is in the basement.

Singh is from northern India. His dad moved alone to the States when Singh was five; Singh followed him ten years later, just after becoming engaged according to his native country's tradition of arranged marriages. He went back to India in 2003 long enough to marry his fiancée, who joined him here two years ago. In between he's been learning the restaurant business from his dad, who until recently owned his own Indian restaurant in Garden City.

Mahek specializes in northern Indian and Indo-Chinese food, with entrees ranging from $7 to $10. Singh says that if he had to pick a house specialty, it would be the butter chicken in tomato-cream sauce with Indian herbs and spices. Other entrees include shish kebab cooked in a clay oven, and *saag* Paneer, a spinach dish prepared with homemade cheese. Mahek also has a daily lunch buffet.

Mahek Indian Cuisine, 212 East Washington, phone unavailable at press time. Daily 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. & 5–10 p.m.

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Elyssa Mount opened **Grow with Me** at the end of March—in part to make a profit, and in part to make a difference. A portion of the store's revenue goes to help fund therapies for autistic children and their families. It's a cause close to Mount's heart: her six-year-old son Gabe is autistic.

Mount, a longtime automotive research consultant, is also a lifelong bargain hunter. She says the idea of opening a resale shop lurked in the back of her mind for years, and that she made the leap when she realized she could combine her love of bargain hunting with her passion for helping autistic children and their families.

"I met with a couple of different local nonprofits that work with families of children with autism, and I put together a business plan," says Mount. The plan included setting up a special autism consignment account for donated clothes. "Every donation we get goes into [that] account. Fifty percent of the proceeds go directly to those organizations." Otherwise, the store functions as a regular resale shop. People bring in gently used children's clothes and Mount gives them either cash or a store credit. The average cost of an item of clothing is $4.99, although there's a clearance rack where things go for 99¢. Mount also carries, at slightly higher prices, local handmade goods: toys, rattles, baby slings, and more.

The store appears to have struck a chord in the community. Mount says that in the store's first two weeks alone she met at least thirty other families affected by autism, and donations have soared. Mount figures that 15 to 20 percent of the people who come in donate items, and she often arrives at work in the morning to find bags of clothes from anonymous donors stacked outside the door.

"For the first time I'm just so excited about what I'm doing," says Mount, "just to see people come and be moved by the store."

Grow with Me, 25 Jackson Industrial Drive, 662–0224, growwithme123.com. Mon.–Wed. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thurs. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. hours vary.

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Marketplace Changes *continued*

The classic forehead-slapping "I coulda had a V8" commercials showed people who had settled for tomato juice being struck by a what-was-I-thinking epiphany involving a more nutritious blend of vegetable juices. **Beyond Juice** hopes for a similar reaction from people who settle for smoothies.

Positioned as a healthier alternative to fast food, the Beyond Juice "meal in a cup" is a low-fat, low-calorie twenty-ounce blend of nineteen different vitamins, minerals, and amino acids combined with fruit, honey, and, occasionally, vanilla. Add in extras like bee pollen, protein powder, spirulina, wheat germ, vitamin C, ginseng, lecithin, and soy powder, and the next time you settle for a smoothie, you might find yourself slapping your forehead and thinking, "I could have had a twenty-ounce blend of [see above]."

The Nevada-based chain gets its first Ann Arbor location this month on East Liberty, in the space formerly occupied by Wizzywig. Owners Bob and Sally Goldman glommed on to Beyond Juice when the first Michigan store opened in Birmingham. "We found ourselves going there daily to get these drinks and eat their food," says Sally. "And we finally decided, 'If this is so good, why aren't there more?' "

At 1,800 square feet, the Ann Arbor store is twice the size of any other Beyond Juice location; the size commitment reflects the Goldmans' confidence in a health-conscious Ann Arbor market. The upbeat blue, lime green, and orange decor—Sally calls them "happy fruit colors"—has comfy couches and chairs and will seat up to twenty-five. There'll be free Internet access and a large-screen TV. The wide menu of drinks includes specialty formulas for customers with specific nutritional needs (like people working out, people with allergies, and even people with hangovers). Many feature "deionized" ice, which the Goldmans say allows nutrients to be absorbed by the bloodstream much more quickly. Beyond Juice will also serve sandwiches, salads, and other beverages, like tea, and will be adding a menu of healthy snacks, such as protein bars.

The Goldmans are also in the middle of opening another Beyond Juice, in Orlando—though originally, the two openings weren't supposed to happen at the same time. "That's why we sound so frantic," laughs Sally.

Beyond Juice, 529 East Liberty, 994–1112. Mon.–Sat. 7 a.m.–7 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Because the practice of Tibetan Buddhism comes with the option of a lot of meditation aids, the **Jewel Heart Bookstore,** when it was downtown, tended to catch a lot of incidental traffic drawn in by the eye-catching *thangkas,* bells, and mandalas. Jewel Heart's new bucolic location will attract very few passersby: it's literal-

ly across the street from a farm, near the intersection of Oak Valley and Ellsworth. But if either the Dalai Lama's recent visit or Tibetan liberation politics have made you curious, visitors to the bookstore are very welcome, and bookstore manager and practicing Tibetan Buddhist Ujjen Tsewang says that there also are public lectures on Sunday morning (see Events, p. 51).

The items for sale, all made in Nepal, India, or Tibet, include incense, thangkas, butter lamps, singing bowls, mandalas, bells, *malas, vajras,* and statuary. "Just say 'mala,' or 'vajra,' " urges Tsewang. "Tibetan Buddhists know what these are." But most of us don't, and Tsewang eventually explained that thangkas are hand-painted altar hangings, and malas are strings of beads for counting mantras (something like rosaries, he reluctantly agreed). Tsewang gave up trying to explain what how one uses a vajra—apparently always sold with a bell—but here's how one doesn't: it is not for hitting the bell. Tsewang's eyebrows shot up in amazement at that suggestion.

A large part of the store is, as the name implies, given over to books—on Eastern thought and on teachings about Tibetan Buddhism in general, and specifically the works of Jewel Heart founder Gehlek Rimpoche. Rimpoche, Ann Arbor's own lama, was born in Tibet and is a childhood friend of the Dalai Lama. Like the Dalai Lama, he lived in exile in India for some years until disciples brought him to Ann Arbor in 1987. Rimpoche brought the Dalai Lama to Ann Arbor in April.

Jewel Heart Bookstore, 1129 Oak Valley Drive, 994–3385, jewelheart.org. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.–about 12:30 p.m. Closed Sat.

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The air is a little fresher at the erstwhile **BD's Mongolian Barbeque** these days. The choose-your-own-stir-fry place has just joined the ranks of smoke-free restaurants in Ann Arbor. At the same time, it's changed its name to **BD's Mongolian Grill.**

It might be a while before the sign catches up to the name change. "It's a historic building, and the signage already exceeds the maximum allowance for square footage," explains Mark Leach, the franchise business consultant, who is charged with working matters out with the city.

When Billy Downs opened his Ann Arbor restaurant in 1994, it was only the second Mongolian Barbeque (the first was in Royal Oak). Now they're opening all over the country, both as company-owned stores and franchises. (Coals to Newcastle alert: there's actually one in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.) Along with the name change and the smoking change, the Ann Arbor Mongo has been remodeled to get rid of the long cafeteria line: "Now it looks more like a market area of fresh products rather than a herding of cattle," says manager Tom Esper. There's also a new menu of appetizers that waiters will bring to your table. "The appetizers will bring it one step closer to being a typical restaurant," says Daniele Hughes, who has worked

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Marketplace Changes *continued*

there for two years. She's hoping the new system will bring better tips—always a problem at restaurants where customers are asked to pitch in on the labor.

BD's Mongolian Grill, 200 South Main, 913–0999, gomongo.com. Mon.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–10:30 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–11:30 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–10 p.m.

Closings

"We've had a lot of people wondering when is the last day they can pick up a case of vodka," Scott Leopold says. "And that would be May twenty-fourth." On May 31, Scott and his brother Todd will be driving out to their new home in Denver.

The vodka he's talking about is their prize-winning Silver Tree Vodka, distilled on the premises at **Leopold Bros.,** the brewery he and Todd opened in 1999 in a bleak but atmospheric old brake factory on South Main. The brothers' environmentally sound brewery was widely recognized as an industry touchstone, and they moved on to the hard stuff, still operating green. In addition to the vodka, Scott and Todd distill a number of liqueurs, whiskey, rum, and, most recently, absinthe, which has just become legal in the United States.

Because of Michigan's byzantine liquor laws, the rum and whiskeys may not be sold on site. And because the Leopolds choose not to use Michigan's enormously expensive "bailment system" of liquor distribution, those products are unavailable anywhere in the state. But you can buy "white" spirits on site (including absinthe, which is actually green). The bailment system is one of the reasons the brothers are moving their facilities to Denver, where they will drop the pub and concentrate only on the distillery for a while.

The more widely publicized reason for their departure is the tripling of their rent when Amvest bought the property in 2006. "I don't blame the landlord," Scott says. "It's an unfortunate consequence of the way Michigan does its property taxes and the way Ann Arbor does real estate. The landlord purchased the building based on the revenues the marketplace was generating, and set his rental rates accordingly. Our business model doesn't fit in with the current downtown Ann Arbor real estate market: we've got sixty percent of our space devoted to manufacturing and only forty percent devoted to retail."

The Leopolds have a loyal clientele. Long-standing customer David Nelson, who clued us in to the absinthe, laments, "I'm especially going to miss their *Hefeweizen,* which I thought was excellent. I used to walk up daily, in the late afternoon before my wife got home from work, and have a beer while watching *The Simpsons* on the corner TV. I carried a bottle of their vodka cross country when my old roommate got married in San Francisco last year."

The unique delivery device at **Kagayaki Sushi** (in Arbor Square Plaza at Carpenter and Ellsworth) ground to a halt sometime in mid-March. Kagayaki opened in 2006, and a sign in the window still proclaims it "the first and only conveying sushi restaurant in Michigan"; the windows are papered over, though, and another sign announces "Coming soon—new owners—new style." Jeff Holman, a spokesman for landlord McKinley, says that a new Japanese restaurant is well under way; the new owner will be Yong Duk Lee. Says Holman, "Lee says he's going to do sushi even better"—though Holman is not absolutely sure whether conveyor belts are involved.

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the Marketplace Changes column covered seven new retail and restaurant enterprises. One of them is still open—discount scent boutique **Perfumania,** at Briarwood—and another, **Retro Threads** on State Street, is still a vintage clothing store under new ownership (it's now called the **Getup**). Both count as survivors under our guidelines. **Fourth Avenue Gallery** was considered temporary when it opened in Town Center Plaza, and indeed is no longer in business today. Neither is **Jimmy's Spitfire Grille** (where Smokehouse Blues is now on Washtenaw); **Stars Bakery,** on the first floor of Maynard House; the short-lived replacement for Maude's restaurant on Fourth Avenue, **Arriba;** or **Big George's Home & Patio,** a sister store across Stadium Boulevard from the original that sold outdoor furniture and grills.

May 1998 survival rate: 29 percent

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Five years ago this month, this column featured four newcomers. All of them are now closed: **Rose Basket** on William; **Oneline Furniture Design** on Fourth Avenue, where Mosaic Sphere's studio is now; **Big O Tires & Service Center** in the outlot at Maple Village; and **W.g. Grinders,** whose space in Ashley Mews, on Main Street, is now held by Marnee Thai.

May 2003 survival rate: 0 percent

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One year ago this month, we reported five business openings, and all those businesses are still open. The first-anniversary celebrants are Middle Eastern restaurant **Eastern Flame** on Ashley, **Happy's Pizza** on South Main, **Get Your Game On** on Packard, **Lunch at Everyday Cook** in Kerrytown, and baguette and sushi shop **Cafe Japon,** on East Liberty.

May 2007 survival rate: 100 percent

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Got a retail or restaurant change? Send email to sallymitani@gmail.com or tonymcreynolds@tds.net, or leave voicemail at 769–3175, extension 320.

The Zingerman's Times

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Buttermilk Cake Bonanza!

20% off whole cakes and slices through May.

Times readers are rushing to Zingerman's Bakehouse and the Deli Next Door to get a piece of this flavorful, buttery yellow cake, filled with rich raspberry buttercream and covered in smooth vanilla buttercream. On special for a limited time!

Zingerman's Financial Strategies Exposed!

ZingTrain consultants reveal how to "cook up satisfying profits without cooking the books" at its **Fun, Flavorful Finance** seminar, June 2 & 3. Be warned: the folks at ZingTrain are NOT traditional finance people—they take the old models of finance and bend 'em to fit the realities of the real work world as we know it. To find out more about ZingTrain seminars, visit www.zingtrain.com.

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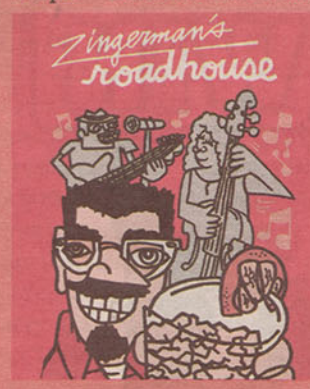

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Across the country, people who feared Mother's Day would be ruined because they didn't have the perfect gift for mom are collectively sighing with relief that Zingerman's Mail Order has come to the rescue with delicious goods from Zingerman's Bakehouse. Sources recommend the **Superior Scone Sampler** with 2 each of the classic currant scones, crystallized ginger scones and country scones, with little jars of preserves and Italian honey, as well as the exclusive **Mother's Daisy Cake**, made with real butter, buttermilk, fresh lemon juice and real vanilla. Insiders also suggest sending **Mom's Afternoon Gift Box**, bursting with a loaf of Chocolate Sourdough and Pecan Raisin breads, four Country Scones, a jar of Fireweed Honey, American Spoon Strawberry Preserves, a tin of Earl Grey tea and tea strainer. Zingerman's Mail Order has ideas that help folks everywhere say "Love ya, mom!" Call now: 888.636.8162 or visit www.zingermans.com.

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Indian Monsooned Malabar – A "Must" for Coffee Lovers

According to insiders, Zingerman's Coffee Company is roasting this special bean for May. Sources describe the flavor as "mellow" with "a nice hint of spice common in Indian coffees." Available at the Deli Next Door and Roadhouse, for a limited time only.

Roaster's Pick

What's the Best Way to Get Started on a Zingerman's Wedding?

Zingerman's Catering and Events

The *Times* Wedding Bureau recommends giving Zingerman's event planners a call at 734.663.3400 or emailing Paul Metler, Director of Catering Sales, at pmetler@zingermans.com. He's happy to discuss possibilities over the phone or make arrangements to meet in person. Experts suggest meeting at the Bakehouse in order to combine a consultation with a Bakehouse cake artist at the same time. Visit www.zingermanscatering.com to find out more.

Zingerman's Bakehouse

Times Readers Say "Happy Mother's Day" with Brunch!

at Zingerman's Roadhouse
Sunday, May 11 • 10am-2pm • menu a la carte

Insiders report seating for the Mother's Day brunch at Zingerman's Roadhouse is filling up fast!

Witnesses say one of the most in-demand items on the full-flavored menu is the Roadhouse's exclusive Grits 'n' Bits Waffle. This is a Southern version of the Dutch classic: waffles filled with bits of Anson Mills' organic grits, Vermont cheddar and Arkansas peppered bacon, served with Ralph Snow's Michigan maple syrup.

Reserve a spot for this popular event now by calling 734.663.3663!

Special ingredients in zingerman's mint chocolate chip gelato revealed!

Zingerman's Creamery

Researchers have discovered Zingerman's is making this extra special gelato with all natural peppermint extract – "Enough to make you know what you're tasting, not so much to make you think you've just rinsed with Scope," confirms the Creamery's gelato guru Josh Miner.

As for the chocolate chips, this is the part Josh told reporters he's most excited about. "I use two types of chocolate, Valrhona and Callebaut. I break it up by hand and fold it through the gelato," he explained. Insiders reveal that these handmade chips are so special because they not only maintain their crunch in the gelato, but that they provide a lot of chocolate flavor to every bite.

Times readers are urged to rush to the Deli, Roadhouse or Creamery right away to sample this rich and creamy treat – it's available only through May! Check out www.zingermanscreamery.com for more yummy gelato flavors.

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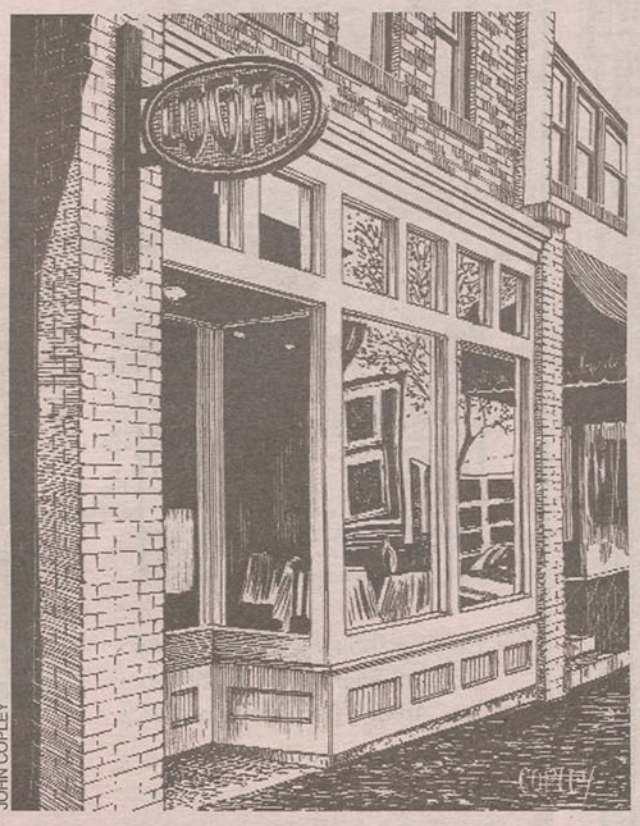
Logan

New heights


JOHN COPLEY

The stars aligned perfectly on my recent visits to Logan, with food, service, and wine blissfully in sync. Three years in, the ambience of the orange- and lime-painted restaurant has reached equipoise—with spare decor, a lively but livable noise level, and well-spaced tables balanced by sparkling cutlery, pristine white linens, and polished service.

More important, the food behind the Washington Street storefront is reaching new heights. With one of the three partners, Thad Gillies, at the kitchen's helm, it has always felt as though someone back there was paying attention. But he started with a limited menu, and tended to be—at least from this customer's point of view—a little straitlaced. Now, with the mechanics of the operation well tuned, he's showing off a looser, more artistic approach to food.

The menu remains focused in spirit but is more expansive in scope; Logan has kept the best of its original offerings while adding new dishes and in-the-moment specials. Dinners start with an *amuse-bouche*, a restaurant's gratis gift to launch the palate in the right direction. This might be a potato-leek soup with a chicken-stock base, a sprinkle of chives, and a smooth creaminess of just the right consistency. Or it could be a wee dish of silky black lentils with a royal trumpet mushroom and trendy microgreens.

After that small bite, any of the appetizers I tried would keep the meal sailing smoothly. One night we happened onto rillettes. Chef-adventurer Anthony Bourdain calls this "about as old school a dish as you can get—and tragically hard to find." We were thrilled to discover it here: pork cooked forever until it becomes spreadable, served in a ramekin with simple toast points and garnishes of onion marmalade, grain mustard, and minced cornichons.

The Gruyère custard may be the most interesting starter: delicately flavored custard with a texture like velvet, beside which an onion-tomato quenelle acts as a flavor-foil. The tuna tartare appetizer is like jazz sashimi: a small pink peak of diced yellowfin with a Dijon dressing and vinegar sabayon. The custard and tuna each came with house-made crackers; the custard's were sprinkled with poppy seeds, and the tuna's with thyme that echoed the same herb in the dressing.

Even as I was oohing and ahhing over these, which I sampled from others' plates around the table, I was equally thrilled with my shaved-fennel salad. This has been on the menu since the beginning, but I don't remember the dressing being this good, with a frank Parmesan-cheesy flavor that was reinforced by a crisp of shredded baked Parmesan. Alongside, a deep aubergine-colored swirl of balsamic glaze festooned the plate like calligraphy. All of these portions were right-sized: a bite and then some, but not so much that they overwhelmed what would come afterwards.

In our case, that included a fall-apart-tender confit of duck leg surrounded by pickled black grapes, roasted fingerling potatoes, and a buttery mustard-cream sauce and topped with a crisp of duck skin. If there is a more luxurious version of duck in this city, I haven't found it.

On one of our visits, the fish special was snook. None of us knew exactly what snook was, but the waiter described it as "the beef of fish." We ordered it and saw what he meant—it's a thick fillet of clean-tasting, dense white ocean fish, served here on a bed of small French lentils. A huge cowboy steak of bone-in rib eye was expertly grilled with a sort of salt crust and topped with big onion rings.

I'd be hard pressed to pick favorites here, but our waiter called the scallops the best dish on the menu: three bronzed shellfish on pickled mustard greens in a sauce of lemongrass and coconut milk swirled with chili oil. Vegetarians can look to the homemade pastas on the menu, like the potato gnocchi in velvety herb cream or the squash tortelloni (the pastas can also be ordered in smaller *primo piatto*–size portions), as well as a good number of simple side dishes like roasted carrots. Even the dishes that didn't work as well for us, the Jamaican bass and beef roulade, were interesting and artful interpretations. I wish the servers would bring the little basket of angelic biscuits at the beginning of the meal instead of in the middle, but that's just the way people do things here. I won't fight it anymore—they know what they're doing.

Dinner at Logan is definitely pricey. Lunch, however, may be one of the Ann Arbor's best food deals—not quite the experience of dinner, but still very, very good. (If an $8–$14 lunch isn't bargain enough, a friend tells me she regularly gets buy-one-get-one-free lunch coupons from Logan by email.) Among the dishes we tried was a beautiful plate of pasta with toothsome penne in a Gruyère cream flecked with tarragon and topped off with crisp bread crumbs. The lunch scallops were wonderful—four plump caramelized rounds of sweet shellfish (one more than dinner, at less than half the price) on a bed of spinach, with just a hint of cream sauce. An ordinary salmon burger was elevated by a ginger-tamari glaze. Skate is an interesting and unusual choice for fish and chips, with a high crunch factor but a less classically fishy texture than, say, cod. The only real glitch at our lunch table was that the restaurant ran out of fresh-squeezed lemonade.

The wine list is interesting, changing, and reasonably priced. Kevin Hobart, another of the owners, has a remarkable memory for clients' likes and dislikes and a keen facility for finding the right bottle to work for a table of four different entrees.

At two recent dinners, service was flawless. Lunch was a bit herky-jerky—I think one server may have been working the whole room for a while—but those of us who had to be back at the office were fed and out in time, and the waiter scared up a chocolate mousse with pistachio sabayon from the dinner menu for our midday finale. This is one giant truffle with enough dark chocolatiness to get the endorphins going like a meteor storm. My favorite dinner dessert, though, remains the savory-sweet goat cheesecake. If you have coffee or tea with it, you'll see the degree to which this place takes care of details in the always-fresh brews and small infusion pots for herb tisanes.

Logan has surpassed its early promise. It's become a lovely little gem of a restaurant and a real local treasure.

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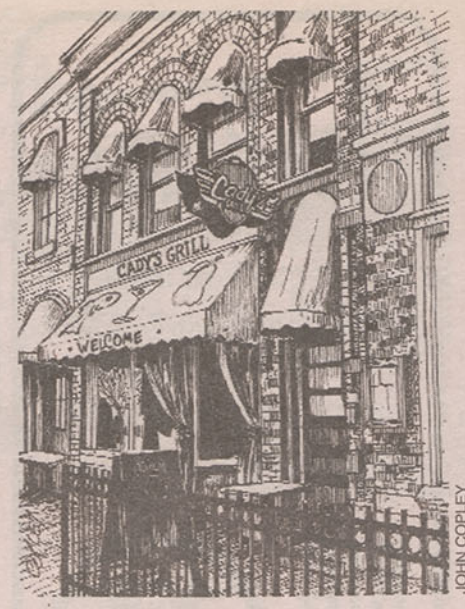

JOHN COPLEY

I fell in love with Ypsilanti all over again when I took a walking tour of the city earlier this year. While the landscape between our towns has surrendered to Generica, Ypsilanti's core has maintained a separate and distinct personality. A few minutes of road-tripping and we have a real change of scene.

Cady's is at the modest end of the Depot Town lineup of handsome mid-nineteenth-century Italianate commercial buildings along East Cross Street. I first landed here in late winter after shivering through dinner nearby, in a charming but underheated ethnic hole-in-the-wall. A group of friends and I set off roaming Depot Town in search of hot coffee. Stepping into Cady's was like an embrace from Grandma—soft, warm, and slightly claustrophobic. It felt instantly like old Michigan, with lots of wood, a massive stone fireplace, a bar in back, and a canoe strung from the ceiling. Cheery old ads adorn the brick dining room walls to tout Finck's Detroit-special overalls ("Wear Like a Pigs Nose"); elsewhere hang blowups of vintage Ypsilanti scenes. I've lucked out every visit with a cozy booth under the eye of the giant stuffed buffalo head and near the stained-glass window with its Y in the middle, presumably to commemorate a certain Greek general. On that first trip, the big, funny waiter brought out mugs of hot java and kept the refills and jokes coming. We were sold. Over the next few weeks we went back to sample the food.

Gerald Carpenter took over as owner and head chef in November, and he's gradually been reworking the menu. Though he's a 1982 graduate of the prestigious Culinary Institute of America, the selection and prices remain more down home than upscale: salads and sandwiches around the $10 mark and generous entrees, nearly all for less than $20. The whole restaurant, including the bar, went smoke free last August. All of these elements add up to a family-friendly environment.

Entrees incline toward "ampersand combos"—as in meat & potatoes, fish & chips, mac & cheese. My first go at meat & potatoes was a Friday-night prime rib with mashers, both of which were simple and delicious—two big slabs of tender roast beef alongside a scoop of creamy spuds (prime rib is on the menu after 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays). Further beef dishes were commendable, particularly the stuffed meat loaf built around a molten cheese center and glazed with what tasted like a hybrid American barbecue–Asian plum sauce.

If beefier offerings were reliable, others seemed hit or miss. For the fish and chips, the kitchen's light hand with the batter allows the flavor of the hand-cut cod to shine through (and zero-trans-fat oils are used for all frying). But in the coconut shrimp a sweet, heavy crust overpowers the actual seafood. The salt-thyme fries that accompany sandwiches had a crisper-coating that to me interferes with the potato's natural beauty, though the thyme worked surprisingly well. And while the mac & cheese wasn't bad, it came across as bait & switch. Described as baked macaroni and cheese with broccoli, chicken, and a side of corn bread, it arrived with so little chicken that the fellow who delivered it asked if we'd ordered it without meat. ("See, there's a piece of chicken," our waitress pointed out, "and there's another.") The corn bread was AWOL, and rather than baked "until golden brown and bubbly" as promised, the dish was simply sauced with a cheesy cream.

It was back to beef at lunch. Sadly, a pretty good hamburger lost its potential for greatness with a too-long turn on the grill. I was glad I upgraded from french fries to the specialty sweet-potato fries—low-grease, high-taste chips with a side of spicy salsa. Another reasonably good sandwich, albeit a bit heavy, is the shaved roast beef. Piled high and covered with melted cheese and sautéed onions, it comes with delicious house-made potato chips. In addition to lunch and dinner daily, Cady's offers breakfast classics à la carte Sundays and does a spot-on eggs Benedict.

Like the menu, the portions are geared to another era, when farmhands needed fuel for a twelve-hour day, maybe in those Finck's overalls. Duty, not hunger, drove me to try a couple of desserts. Unfortunately, the ones I sampled—an excessively gooey peach cobbler and a strange fried-tortilla-and-ice-cream thing strewn with brown sugar—left me cold. However, Cady's serves an excellent cup of coffee, and the staff don't get anxious if you hang out after the meal. The service was unfailingly good natured and nearly always efficient. (On one visit we had to wait too long for our dinner, likely because the house was packed for a charity fundraiser; on another, the waitress mangled my breakfast order.)

If you asked me whether it's worth the drive for the food alone, I'd have to admit you could find similar fare without leaving

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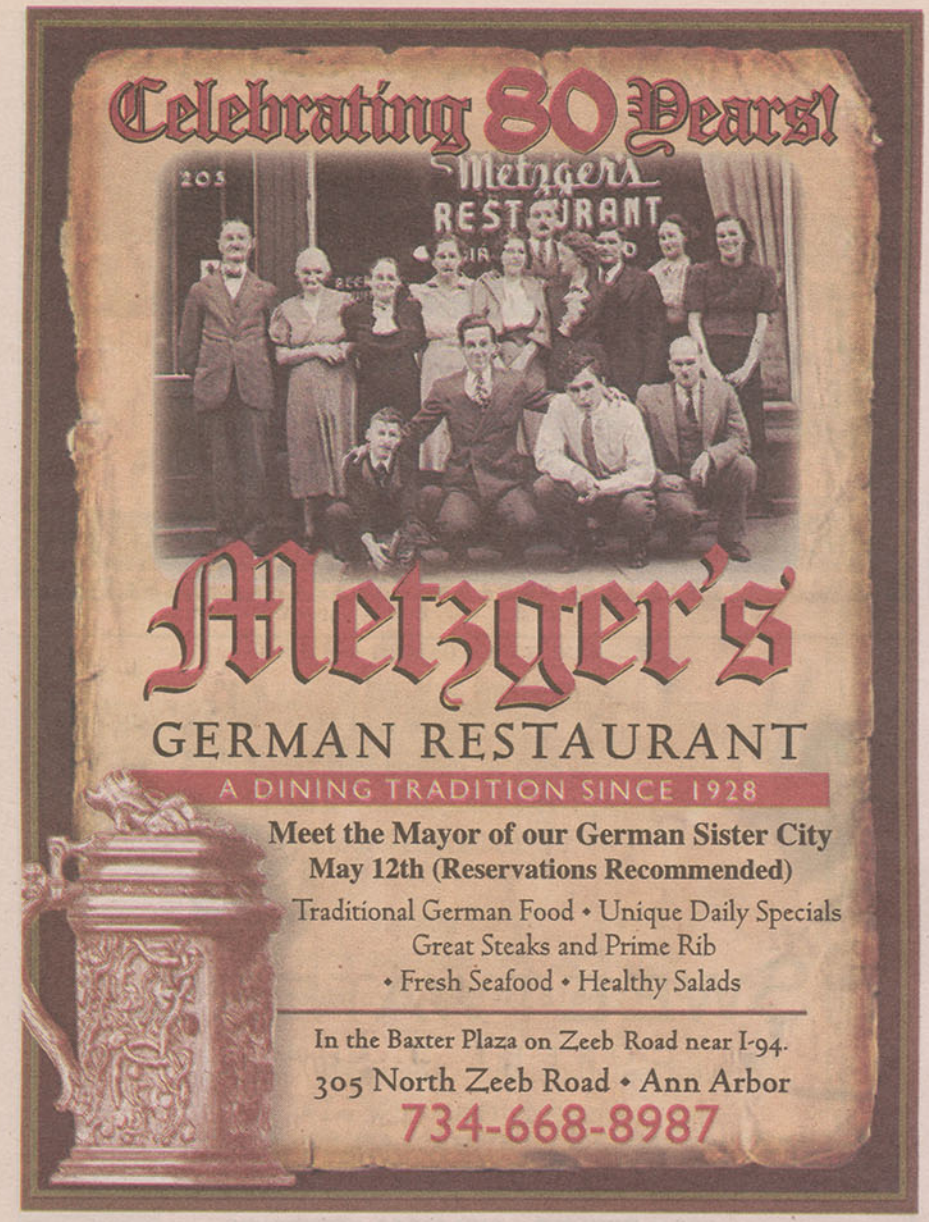
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Ann Arbor. But I'm still sold on Cady's, at least for the occasional visit. It has an ease and a charm of its own, and I'm imagining summer on the vine-covered back patio with a Michigan-brewed beer and a sandwich. That takes me back to the wonder of Ypsilanti—that we can have a travel adventure without really traveling very far.

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Quick Bites

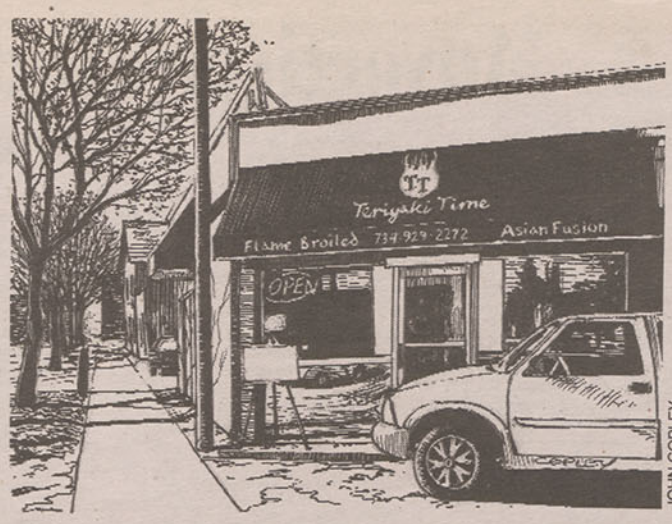
If **Teriyaki Time** were a television show, I wouldn't know whether to put it on Home & Garden Television or the Food Channel. This is such an uncanny restaurant renovation that it's worth a visit just to see how the owners cheated three dining rooms out of a minuscule former gas station. The makeover, complete with peachy-toned walls and wood wainscoting, also gave some needed sparkle to the Kerrytown-area digs that had previously housed Mysore Woodlands and, in years gone by, DeLong's Bar-B-Q Pit. On Farmers' Market days, the best seats are at the counter in front of the window, where you can watch the agricultural commerce across the street.

The chow part of the program is quick and inexpensive but reasonably healthy and certainly tasty. Owners Eric and Song Lee handle a pan-Asian selection beyond their Korean roots, with sushi, noodles, *gyoza,* tempura, and several iterations of meat on a stick. The modest bento box provided a good introduction, with two dumplings, a passable California roll, chicken teriyaki, and *inari* sushi (about $8). A *dol sot bibim bap* came to the table crackling hot, with layers of julienne carrots, baby spinach, bean sprouts, and a somewhat paltry amount of spicy shaved beef over rice plus a side of kicky housemade hot sauce (chicken and tofu versions are on offer as well). A generously filling meal, the bibim bap package with a drink and miso soup cost about $8. The $6 weekday lunch special was both well priced and right sized, with a small salad, rice, two lightly sautéed gyoza dumplings filled with ground pork, and a modest portion of grilled and sauced chicken. A standard serving of spicy teriyaki ($6.50) was huge, with lean, tender chicken doused

in fiery and faintly sweet-sour sauce, all served on a proper white china plate with rice and a simple salad. A chicken-pork teriyaki combo ($6.75) was even more generous, with grilled sliced pork and chicken in the Lees' trademark sauce—a full-throated soy-based concoction with fifteen ingredients including pineapple, garlic, and ginger. The hot roasted corn tea is delicate and delicious.

During school breaks, the owners' young son often hangs out in the dining room playing with some kind of handheld game gizmo. That, plus the sound from the kitchen of the cooks singing along with Gladys Knight or André 3000, gives the place a family feel. The proprietors go to remarkable lengths to please the customer. On one visit, I wanted to try the *shumai* dumplings but was told they were out. I went ahead and ordered something else and was contentedly eating in the back dining room. Toward the end of the meal, Eric Lee dashed in with three steamed shrimp shumai. He'd driven to a friend's restaurant, borrowed the dumplings, and cooked and boxed them up for me to take home—no charge.

—Bix Engels



JOHN COPLEY

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table talk

If you like the idea of sharing dugout chow with Detroit Tigers center fielder Curtis Granderson, visiting the Germack pistachio factory, or maybe scarfing down a lunch of French muskrat at Belle Isle, you'll want to join the American Table Culinary Tours exploration of Detroit in June. Based in Asheville, North Carolina, ATCT is a new organization founded by two Ann Arbor natives, Hanna Raskin and Catharine Roeber. Their first tour was an exploration of Memphis barbecue. Now they're coming back home to southeast Michigan.

Raskin and Roeber's new venture combines their twin passions of food and history—Raskin has a master's degree in American history from SUNY-Cooperstown with an emphasis on culinary history (she wrote her thesis on the relationship between Jews and Chinese food), and Roeber is working toward a doctorate in history at William and Mary. They still have family here. Roeber's father, John Dann, recently retired as head of the U-M's Clements Library, and her mother, Orelia, teaches history at Greenhills. Raskin's father, Jerry Miller, is the director of the U-M's Center for the Child and Family, and her mother, Emily, is a social worker.

Raskin and Roeber's tour, "Laboring over the Stove: A Working Definition of Detroit Cuisine," will explore the nexus of food and work in Detroit and the various ethnic and historical influences on the city's eating scene. Planned to last two and a half days, the tour includes—in addition to the visit with Granderson and the Belle Isle picnic—such wildly diverse offerings as a Coney dog tasting in the Piquette Avenue T-Plex, where Henry Ford built his first 12,000 Model Ts, and a sampling of *burrma* and baklava in the new Islamic Center of America. After an afternoon at Eastern Market, the group will come to Zingerman's Roadhouse to share in chef Alex Young's dinner salute to Harriette Arnow, the Kentucky-born author who chronicled Detroit at mid-century. (Tickets to the Roadhouse event can also be purchased separately.)

"Laboring over the Stove: A Working Definition of Detroit Cuisine," organized by American Table Culinary Tours. June 26–28, 2008. $675 includes food, drink, lectures, and most transport. (800) 925–0451 or tabletours.org.

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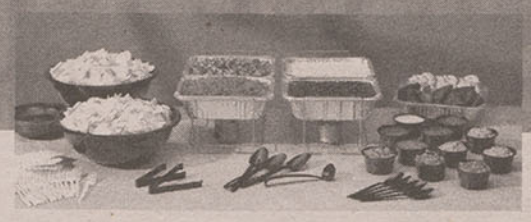

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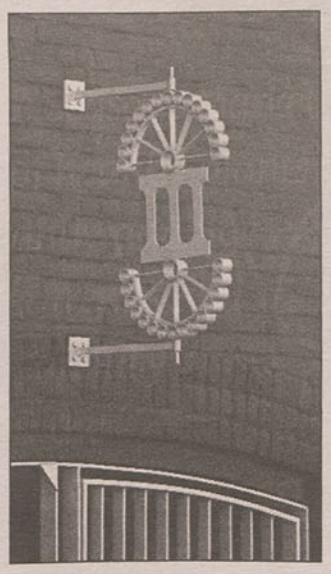
i spy

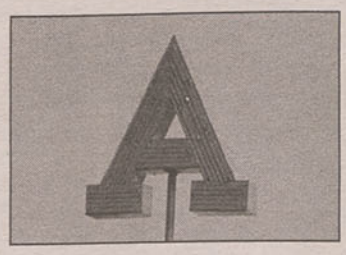
by Sally Bjork

"Footsteps to it all."



To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

"Look for the big neon A." That was the advice I Spy entrant Mary Henderson received to direct her to Arborland when she first moved to town. Ann Arbor's scarlet letter, featured in April, "has been welcoming Ann Arborites home via US-23" since before Huron Parkway connected Washtenaw to Geddes, relayed entrant Annmarie Stolle.



Originally an open, California-style mall, Arborland was renovated into an enclosed mall before being demolished and replaced by a "big box" mall in the 1990s. During the demolition, Andrew O'Neal from O'Neal Construction salvaged Louis Redford's mosaic mural of Jack and the Beanstalk and reinstalled it in Kerrytown. "It actually was my dad, Joe's, idea, but he didn't think it could be done," Andrew recalls. "Sometimes a kid's just gotta prove a parent wrong." Asked about the kid-size whale sculpture that also inhabited the original Arborland, O'Neal says, "I wish that was there when we renovated; we would've moved it, too."

We received thirty correct entries. The winner of our random drawing, Annmarie Stolle, confessed, "I still miss the whale." She'll receive a copy of *A History of Ann Arbor,* by Jonathan L. Marwil.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received 153 entries correctly identifying last month's financial-themed Fake Ad for Meyer Thrifty Arbor (p. 55). Ypsilanti's Judy Sorensen won our random drawing; she's taking her gift certificate to Metzger's German Restaurant.

"We could use a lot of growing and weeding in the dirtiest gardens and financial institutions," wrote Ann Arbor's Gregg Sobocinski. "Makes me want to Bear my Stearns to somebody in government right now!"

Sobocinski wasn't the only Fake Adder in a punning mood. "Were you hoping to STEM the tide of entries with this fake ad?" asked Marc Joseph, also of Ann Arbor. "It's understandable that you might be SICK-A MORE stupid entrants and their lame puns. . . . This contest has deep ROOTS in the community. . . . I hope I'm not BARKing up the wrong TREE, but I PINE for the coming of spring, and it would be nice to begin the season with a winning entry."

Ugh.

To enter, identify the May Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. Knowledgeable Fake Adders noticed that in the April Fake Ad, "Arbor" was followed by "We bring"—concealing the name of the Observer's website arborweb, their clue that the ad was truly fake. The winner of our random drawing will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–3375. *Email:* backpage@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Friday, May 9, will be eligible for the May drawings.

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Events at a Glance

A capsule guide to selected major events in May. See p. 51 for daily events listings and a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews.

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Bitch and Ferron (singer-songwriters), May 1
- Ullmann/Swell 4tet (jazz), May 2
- Trina Hamlin (singer-songwriter), May 2
- Don White (singer-songwriter), May 2 & 3
- Johnny O'Neal Trio (jazz), May 3
- Geoff Muldaur (country blues), May 4
- Mother Truckers (country-rock), May 5
- War (funk fusion), May 6
- Dave Boutette and Chris Buhalis (singer-songwriters), May 6
- Luke Sayers and Stewart Francke (singer-songwriters), May 8
- Peter Mayer (singer-songwriter), May 9
- Jimmy Scott (jazz), May 9
- Jeff Hamilton Trio (jazz), May 9
- Shemekia Copeland (blues), May 10
- Richie Havens (folk-rock singer-songwriter), May 11
- Teitur (singer-songwriter), May 13
- Matthew Ryan vs. The Silver State (alt-country), May 15
- Orpheum Bell (country & eastern) and Billy King & the Idylls (pop-folk), May 16
- Otis Taylor (blues), May 16
- Jandek (avant-folk singer-songwriter), May 17
- BETTY (pop-rock cabaret), May 17
- KT Tunstall (pop-folk singer-songwriter), May 17
- Mem Shannon (blues), May 17
- Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper (bluegrass), May 18
- Avett Brothers (postpunk string trio), May 20
- Jim Smith and Charlene Kaye (singer-songwriters), May 21
- Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band (calypso), May 22
- Dave Mason (singer-songwriter), May 23
- Marcin Wasilewski Trio (jazz), May 24

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Josh White Jr. (folk), May 3
- Utah Phillips fund-raiser with Garnet Rogers & others, May 14
- Kat Eggleston (folk), May 16
- Claude Bourbon (acoustic guitar fusion), and The Everybodyfields (alt-country), May 27
- Yellow Room Gang (singer-songwriters), May 28
- Twilight Hotel (alt-country), May 29
- The Chenille Sisters with the Royal Garden Trio (vintage jazz & pop), May 31
- Mr. B, Steve Nardella, & George Bedard (roots rock), May 31

Lectures & Readings

- Elizabeth Ellen and Kim Chinquee, May 7
- Political journalist Cokie Roberts, May 19
- Novelist Chuck Palahniuk, May 20
- Elmore Leonard interviews his novelist son Peter Leonard, May 21
- Buddhist gardening guru Wendy Johnson, May 21
- Fiction writers Kevin Sampsell, Matt Bell, & Barry Graham, May 22
- Poet Richard Tillinghast, May 27

The Joint Is Jumpin'

Seussical the Musical

Breakin' Curfew

Music productions in May have theatrical panache: the Choral Connection's "The Joint Is Jumpin'," Theatreworks USA's *Seussical the Musical*, and the Neutral Zone's "Breakin' Curfew."

Classical & Religious Music

- Ceciliana Trio, May 3
- Fair Isle String Quartet, May 4
- Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, May 4
- Academy of Early Music, May 9
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, May 10
- Flutist James Galway, May 10
- Wine, Women, & Song women's vocal collective, May 10
- Measure for Measure men's chorus, May 11
- Soprano Lisa Saffer, May 11
- Dexter Community Orchestra, May 17
- Ann Arbor Concert Band, May 18
- Phoenix Ensemble, May 24
- Soprano Ruth Cunningham, May 30 & 31
- The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale, May 31
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, May 31
- The Choral Connection, May 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Festival, May 3
- Ann Arbor Art Association WineFest, May 3
- Neutral Zone teen center "Breakin' Curfew" showcase, May 3
- Ypsilanti Street Rods Car Show, May 4
- Crossroads Summer Festival, May 4
- 4-H Spring Roundup Horse Show, May 10
- Anthony Wayne Cat Fanciers show, May 10
- Spur of the Moment Club Horse Show, May 11
- Ann Arbor Book Festival, May 14–19
- Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club Springtime Invitational, May 15–18
- Zen Buddhist Temple Buddha's Birthday Celebration, May 17 & 18
- Antiquarian Book Fair, May 18

Films

- Jewish Film Festival, May 11–15

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *Treasure Island* (Wild Swan Theater), May 1–4
- *Seussical the Musical* (Theatreworks USA), May 4
- *Imagination Celebration* (Imagination Theater Etc.), May 24
- Ann Arbor Memorial Day Parade, May 26
- Children's Russian Club cultural show, May 31

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Nick Gaza, May 1–3
- Comic Ken Davis, May 3
- Sheketak Israeli dance troupe, May 5
- Michigania storyteller Bill Jamerson, May 7
- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, May 6
- Comic John Heffron, May 8–10
- "Pranayam" Indian performing arts showcase, May 9
- La Chispa y Compania flamenco troupe, May 11
- Comic Jarrod Harris, May 15–17
- Comic Geoff Tate, May 23 & 24
- Comic Chrissy Burns, May 30 & 31

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Pride and Prejudice* (The Home School Connection Thespian Society), May 1 & 2
- *A Few Good Men* (Ann Arbor Civic Theatre), May 1–4
- *Arms and the Man* (Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre), May 1–4, 8–11, & 15–18
- *Growing Pretty* (Purple Rose Theatre), every Wed.–Sun. and May 6 & 27
- *Exits and Entrances* (Performance Network), every Thurs.–Sun.
- *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka* (Pioneer High School), May 2–4
- *Taming of the Shrew* (Huron High School), May 2 & 3
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Chelsea Area Players Youth Theater), May 8–10
- Christine McGinley's one-woman monologue *The Words of a Woman*, May 9
- *Jane Eyre* (Young Actors Guild), May 9–11
- *The Crucible* (Dexter Community Players), May 9–11, 16, & 17
- *Assemblywomen* (U-M Classics Department), May 10
- *Steps in Time: Dancing Through the Ages* (Dance Gallery Youth Ensemble), May 10
- Pioneer High School student productions, May 16–18
- Dance Ensemble of Michigan, May 16
- *Bigfoot Stole My Wife* (Ann Arbor Civic Theatre), May 16–18
- *The Baltimore Waltz* (Blackbird Theater), May 23–25, 29, & 31
- *Ghosts* (MorrisCo Art Theatre), May 29–31
- *110 in the Shade* (EMU Theatre Department), May 30 & 31
- Bichini Bia Congo Dance Theater, May 30

Miscellaneous

- Burns Park Run, May 4
- Ann Arbor School Board and District Library Board elections, May 6
- For Women Only 5K Run and Fitness Walk, May 18

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Tuebingen mayor Boris Palmer discusses "Climate Change and Ann Arbor's Sister City Tuebingen," May 13

All is change; nothing stays still. – Heraclitus

Meeting the Challenge of Change

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
A Report to the Community

In 2007, change was in abundant supply – for our state, our community and our Community Foundation – change that challenged us in many ways as we sought to fulfill our dual promise of "For good" and "For ever." A challenging economy and vastly changed philanthropic landscape have made it increasingly evident that the largest, most urgent issues facing our community – homelessness, poverty, illiteracy and caring for the elderly – need to be solved.

The B-Side, (The Business Side of Youth), a new program that gives young people the opportunity to become responsible, enterprising individuals, able to contribute to economic development and sustainable communities.

Washtenaw Success by 6®, a community collaboration to involve families in programs that build and sustain good parenting skills and to improve outcomes for children.

AAACF is, first and foremost, a vehicle for community philanthropy. In all, the Community Foundation made 375 grants and scholarship awards to Washtenaw County nonprofit organizations totaling more than $1.5 million, including $150,000 to the Neutral Zone for program support.

In striving to promote more – and more effective – community collaboration, AAACF is continuing to seek out new, integrative funding models that result in systems change. In 2007, we provided significant support for Success by 6®, the Funders' Forum, the Washtenaw County Blueprint for Aging, and the Blueprint to End Homelessness. Each of these exemplary programs has demonstrated its ability to create large-scale change. Going forward, we expect to focus more heavily on multi-year grants to community-wide initiatives.

Last December, the Pfizer Foundation made a legacy gift of $1 million to the local nonprofit community, to be allocated by AAACF. Our Board of Trustees is assessing needs, establishing objectives, and developing plans and procedures for distributing this one-time gift. Our aim is to design a process as effective, inclusive and transparent as possible and make a meaningful impact, both long-and short-term.

2007 was a year of change and challenge. The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation met the challenges with the ongoing support of volunteers, donors and other stakeholders. Together, we will continue to serve our community. *For good. For ever.*

The Neutral Zone serves more than 500 teens from every segment of the community. A three-year, $150,000 grant made jointly by AAACF and the AAACF Youth Council is being used to fund a wide range of new youth-driven art and music programs.

Financial Information

ASSETS	
Total Assets December 31, 2007	$53,232,188
Total Assets December 31, 2006	$45,580,787
REVENUES, GAINS, AND SUPPORT	
Gifts and Pledges	$ 5,535,045
Investment Income	$ 2,382,858
Net Appreciation on Investments-Realized and Unrealized	$ 1,483,531
Change in Value of Liability to Life Beneficiary	$ 25,189
Administrative Support and Other Income	$ 13,317
Total Revenues, Gains, and Support	**$ 9,439,940**
EXPENDITURES	
Grants and Scholarships	$ 1,542,724
Investment Fees	$ 163,275
Administrative Expenses	$ 966,422
Total Expenditures	**$ 2,672,421**
Change in Fund Balances	**$ 6,767,519**

The 2007 information presented here is unaudited. A copy of the 2007 Audit and IRS Form 990 will be available after June 1, 2008.

INVESTMENT RETURNS (Annualized)		
1 YEAR	3 YEARS	5 YEARS
9.1%	10.1%	13.8%

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